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#### iran hates atomic bomb — Rafsaniani

NICOSIA (AFP) -- Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsan-NICUSIA (AFF) — Iran's President An Akuar Francish Ransan-jani said Sunday his country hated atomic weapons, countering accusations that Tehran was trying to develop a nuclear capability. "We really hate the atomic bomh. Islam has prevented us from such adventurism," he told the U.S. television channel Cable News Network (CNN) in a live interview. It was the first interview. of its kind filmed in Tehran, as Iranian leaders never appear live, even on official state media. The United States has charged that Iran is trying to gain nuclear arms, and slapped an economic embargo on the country which it also accuses of supporting international terrorism. Both charges have always been denied by Tehran. The United States has also tried to persuade Russia to end its ouclear cooperation with Iran and break a hillion-dollar contract to build a nuclear plant at Bushehr no the Guif. But Mr. Rafsanjani said "Russia has been serious about its covenant with us. We don't see any reason why the Russians should surrender to the inappropriate pressures of the U.S."



#### Sharif Zeid, team head for Paris

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker un Sunday left Amman for Paris to join His Majesty King Hussein un his visit to the French capital which will start Monday. During the visit, King Hussein will meet with French Presidem Jacques Chirac and senior French officials for talks an Franco-Jordanian relations as well as issues of common interest, namely the Middle East peace process. Sharif Zeid was seen aff at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Khaled Al Karaki and several officials. Leaving along with the prime minister were Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kahanii.

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#### **Prisoners** relaunch strike

OCCUPTED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian prisoners campaigning for their release from Israeli jails relaunched their hungerstrike Sunday after Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) failed to strike a deal on extending autonomy, Palestinian sources said.

Inmates in jails in Nablus, Ramallah and Jenin on the occupied West Bank are to go further and step up their ampaign by refusing to drink ater, the sources said.

The fast for freedom, launched two weeks ago, was suspended on Saturday in the hope that PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeb Foreign Minister Shimon Peres would meet a midnight deadline for agreement on spreading Palestinian self-rule across the West Bank.

. The PLO has demanded a timetable for prisoner releases as part of the deal.

But Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres failed to reach an agreement in more than eight hours of talks which broke up at dawn Sunday. (see separate

The Israeli prison service said only 1,200 prisoners were continuing their fast Saturday out of the 4,000 wbo joined the hunger-strike

A spokesman for the Palestinian Mandela Institute, a human rights group, said: "Palestinian prisoners drank milk and some ate eggs on Saturday which, according to internatinal sules, is not considered as breaking a hun-

ger strike." The prisoners' refusal to drink water could have drastic consequences in Israel and the West Bank where femperatures have soared above 36 degrees Celsius . \* srael intends to release ble. is of inmate autonomy accord is reached and hundreds more after Palestinian elections, but the PLO demands the early release of all 6,500 prisoners.

Israel will release 1,500 Palestinian security detainees as soon as it reaches agreement with the PLO on a West Bank troop withdrawal, the Voice of Palestine Radio

: Mr. Peres made the pledge (Continued on page 7)



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minis-

between Israel and the Gaza Strip late Saturday on a deal to

# Israel, PLO to make new bid for self-rule deal

Combined agency dispatches

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation. Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser. Arafat will make a fresb attempt on Monday or Tuesday to agree an army redeployment to extend autonomy across the West Bank.

After breaking a Saturday midnight deadline to strike a deal, despite a marathon 8.5bour meeting at the Erez crossing into the Gaza Strip, the two men decided to hold talks again as soon as possi-

early as Monday, but it may be Tuesday," a spokesman for Mr. Peres said Sunday. .Israel Radio reported the talks would take place on

Israel and the PLO set a July 1 target for an agreement, covering an Israeli army redeployment outside Palestinian towns on the West Bank, a transfer of civil powers and elections to a self-rule council.

According to Israel radio, the United States has invited both sides to sign their accord in Washington on July 17. However, Mr. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said; "We are waiting to

confirm the Peres meeting.

He added that no dates bad been set for any signing cere-mony in Washington. Israeli officials sought to play down the importance of the broken deadline, which fell exactly one year after Mr.

Arafat's return to Gaza. "You have to expect such difficulties when you enter the final straight in negotiations," said Environment

Minister Yossi Sarid. There is really no crisis with the Palestinians and wc sbould sign an agreement with them before the end of the month of July," said Mr. Sarid, one of Israel's autonomy negotiators.

He said the main bone of contention was over control of roads and rural areas on the West Bank.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin wants to maintain security control over the territory but is prepared to withdraw troops from six of the seven large West Bank towns in stages, Israeli

sources said. Mr. Arafat has demanded a clear timetable for army evacuation of all West Bank towns to enable elections to

go ahead quickly.

But Israel has offered to pull out of only four towns — Jenin, Nablus, Kalkilya and Tulkarem - in a first stage. Ramallah and Bethlebem will

come next. "There is an agreement on a withdrawal from six of the seven cities," said Mr. Sarid. He said Israel would not withdraw from Hebron, where 450 Jews live amidst some 110,000 Palestinians, 'hecause of the special, dangerous and wretched

complications in this city.' A Palestinian official said Israel proposed this as a final

Israel also refuses the PLO's demand for a binding timetable for the withdrawal. demanding the right to halt

the process if there are attacks by militants against Israelis.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat said a timeframe was needed because "we are speaking about redeployment of Israeli forces to be matched by Palestialan deploy-

"What Israel is trying to do," said another PLO negotiators, "is to restrict the movements and deployment of the Palestinian police, and to divide the West Bank in an attempt to avoid the establishment of a Palestinian state at the end of the process."

Israel rejected PLO demands to control security in villages and refugee camps near Jewish settlements. It also opposed joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols on roads to settlements, Israeli officials said.

Mr. Arafat wants redeployment over two months from all major West Bank towns, including Hebron which bave special security

(Continued on page 7)

#### Jordan's debt relief process clears major hurdle in U.S. Special from Washington approximately \$7 billion in disaster relief for California. apparently unable to influ-

THIS WEEK, the complicated legislative process of providing Washington's debt relief for Jordan came one step closer to completion when, after White House officials and lawmakers on Capitol Hill resolved differences over domestic issues in the rescissions bill, the House adopted the measure by 275 to 151 with no controversy over the Kingdom's debt re-

For reasons related purely to constituent politics, two liberal freshmen senators managed 10 prevent the adoption of the bill in the Senate, delaying it until July 10 at the earliest, when Congress comes back from its recess.

The agreement between. the White House and congressional lawmakers earlier in the week cleared a major hurdle in the bill which makes \$16.1 billion in cuts of previously approved but unspent funds and provides

Oklahoma cities and other programmes such as \$275 million to write off the remainder of Jordan's debt to the U.S. After the rescissions pack-

age passed the House on Thursday, political observers expected the measure to be adopted by the Senate with little difficulty, but the two Democrat Senators — Paul Wellstone of Minnesota and Carol Moseley-Braun of Illinois - exercised stalling tactics on the Senate floor that finally caused Senate majority leader Bob Dole (Kansas) to adjourn the Senate session until he receives assurances that Democrats would not offer any additional amend-

ments or delay the measure. Once the outstanding differences on domestic issues were resolved between the administration and congressional leaders, the White House issued a statement in support of the rescissions package. Reports indicated ence Sen. Wellstone into approving the measure.

The next step is for the Senate 10 vote on the measure before it can be sent to the White House to be signed into law by the president. If that takes place without complications for reasons of domestic politics, then the write-off of Jordan's debt to the U.S. will, for all practical purposes, have been provided for. The Clinton administration bad requested that Congress appropriate \$275 million in funds in fiscal 1995 in order to be able to write off the remainder of Jordan's debt to the U.S., approximately \$488 million.

No controversy over Jordan's debt surfaced during the congressional debate on the rescissions bill. The debate over the bill takes place at a time of increasingly complicated partisan politics in Washington and in Congress, where Republicans now hold

## Iraq provided missing information, Ekeus says

BAGHDAD (Agencies) -Iraq, seeking an end to five years of international economic sanctions, has disclosed new details about its germ warfare programme, U.N. disarmament envoy Rolf Ekeus said here Sunday.

But Mr. Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Iraq, told reporters at the end of a mission to Baghdad that more work had to be done towards resolving the main obstacle to lifting the sanctions.

Mr. Ekeus described his three days of talks with Ira authorities as "positive and constructive.

"The Iraqi government has provided new information with regard to biological weapons. We will assess that information and report about it to the Security Council, the Swedish diplomat said.

We have agreed to continue intensive work on clarifying these points," be said after meeting General Amer Mohammad Rashid, the newly-appointed oil minister and main negotiator on disarmament.

Mr. Ekeus's six-member team arrived here Friday on a mission to persuade Iraq to account for 17 tonnes of missing biological material imported before the 1991 Gulf

war which could be used for

SARAJEVO (Agencies) —

Bosnian Serbs targeted Un-

ited Nations peace keepers on

Sunday, firing three sbells at

U.N. headquarters in

Sarajevo and aiming heavy

machinegun fire at a convoy-

driving along a hazardous

slightly wounded by shrapnel

when a mortar round ex-

ploded in trees next to the

U.N. flagpole in the cour-

tyard of the headquarters

compound. A local police

guard at the U.S. embassy

next door was also slightly

The building serves as

headquarters for all U.N.

peacekeeping operations in

Bosnia and is the residence of

the U.N. commander in the

country, Lieutenant General

Three peacekeepers were

mountain road.

Mr. Ekeus told the U.N.

Security Council two weeks ago after his last trip here in late May that the germ warfare issue was the only main obstacle to lifting the oil embargo Mr. Ekeus must certify that all Iraq's biological, che-

mical, nuclear and ballistic

missile weapons programmes

have been eliminated before the Security Council will consider easing the ban on Iraqi oil exports imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "We have agreed to con-tinue intensive work on clar-

ifying these additional he told reporters. Mr. Ekeus was to meet Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz before leaving to report

his findings to the Security

Council. Mr. Ekeus said in his most recent report that the only serious remaining problems in eliminating weapons of mass destruction were in the

biological area. Mr. Ekeus had spent a year seeking information on the

biological research. Iraq said before he arrived that its cooperation depended on the United Nations declaring investigations into other weapons programmes closed and guaranteeing

However, with splits inside

Bosnian Serbs shell

the U.N. Security Council over terms for easing sanctions, Iraq hopes the U.S. determination to keep sanctions will succumb to the more sympathetic view of . France, Russia and China.

The United States has linked a lifting of sanctions to ·Iraqi behaviour in a wide range of areas beyond military programmes, including human rights. It can block an easing of sanctions through its veto in the Security Council, which it has vowed to use if necessary.

and france have suggested linking an easing of the ban on oil exports to Mr. Ekeus reporting that Iraq has complied with all the arms control demands, including biological weapons.

The Security Council. which meets every 60 days to review the sanctions, is due to hold its next session in mid-July.

Mr. Ékeus made no additional comment after the final round of talks with Mr. Aziz. He held talks earlier Sunday with Gen. Rashid for the third time since he arrived

Mr. Ekeus was due to take a special U.N. flight to Bahrain, the U.N. field office for weapons inspectors, on his way back to U.N. bead-

## Egypt warns Tourabi against threatening Nile SANAA (Agencies) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Salah's political party on

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa rebuked Sudan's spiritual patron Hassan Al Tourabi on Sunday for suggesting Sudan's control of the Upper Nile would make Cairo vulnerable in any conict with Khartoum. Tourabi should stay away

from matters that are far too big for him. He should not play with fire - and at the same time he should not play with water," Foreign Minister Amr Musa told the press. Strained relations between the two countries worsened last week over Egyptian

Hosni Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa. Two border clashes heightened the ten-Egypt has ruled out military action against Sudan, re-

suspicions that Sudan was be-

hind the attempt on President

ferring instead to unspecified alternative responses. But Mr. Tourabi said on Saturday the Nile waters, which run through Sudan before reaching Egypt, would be a powerful weapon in Sudanese bands in any con-

We do not want to aggravate nationalist tensions ... but the water supplies come from this country. They (Egypt) have no under-Sudan is provoked to interfere with water agreements this is going to be deadly," he told Reuters in Khartoum (see page 2).

Throughout the week the two countries - have exchanged threats and accusations which flared on Tuesday and Wednesday into armed clashes in the disputed border region of Halaib. Abdul Hadi Radi, Egypi's

minister of water resources and public works, said Sudan bad no right to cancel un-ilaterally a 1959 agreement on sharing the river's water between the countries of the Nile basin.

"The wise men of Sudan know well that the accord of 1959 is a line that cannot be crossed," be said.

Mr. Radi, quoted by the official Egyptian news agency MENA, added that Khar. toum "cannot reduce by one drop Egypt's share of the Nile's water -- that is 55 billion cubic metres of water per\_year."

The question of water differs from all other problems because it concerns the life of a people and it is governed by international law. Any Sudanese act in this context will damage Sudan first before it damages Egypt," he

The Nile, which rises in Ethiopia and Uganda, passes through Sudan and then Egypt before flowing into the Mediterranean Sea.

In Khartoum, Sudanese

danced, pounded drums and

blew horns in the streets as

the regime tried to whip up

anger over charges that

Sudan plotted to kill Mr.

A day after Egypt sought to cool the fierce dispute between the two Arab countries, Sudan promised not to retreat from a fundamentalist programme that bas alienated most of its neighbours.

"The Sudanese masses are ready to die in defence of their territorial integrity and will not let any foreign aggression go unanswered," said the English-language newspaper daily Horizon. Relations between Egypt

and Sudan bave been strained and at times openly hostile ever since the 1989 coup that brought Sudan's government to power. But the sharp rhetoric and border clashes represent the biggest crisis is their relations in decades.

As late as Saturday, Egyptian officials seemed to be taking a softer line. Mr. Musa ruled out any military action against Sudan and even held out the possibility of a rapprochement between the two neighbours.

Sudan, however, kept up its bitter criticism of what it called Egypt's arrogant policies. On Sunday, hundreds of protesters poured into the streets in front of a government building. Dancers in African dress pounded drums and blew borns.

At another raily, General Bashir, called accusations that Sudan was involved in

(Continued on page 7)

### Yemen's GPC commits itself to better Arab ties

lah Saleh's political party on Sunday called for better ties with Gulf Arab neighbours after the five years of strain mainly over the 1990-91 Gulf

The General Peoples Congress (GPC) called for "raising the level of brotherly ties with the states of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf on the hasis of beneficial, equal cooperation and mutual respect for the regimes,

sovereignty and rights.' The call was part of a policy statement by the GPC which was issued at the end of a week-long meeting by its general assembly, the first

such gathering since 1988. Yemen's ties with Gulf Arah neighbours, once its main political and financial backers, were damaged in 1990 when it voted against Security Council resolution sanctioning the use of force against Iraqi troops which had seized Kuwait.

Ties with some Gulf Arab states bave improved in recent months and Yemen's standing in the region received a boost last month when Mr. Saleh flew to Saudi Arabia for reconciliation talks after the two sides agreed in February to resolve a long-standing border dis-

The GPC, the majority partner in a coalition government with the Islamist Islah Party, stressed "the importance of the Iraqi governmen: abiding by the implementation of the decisions of the international legality (United Nations) relating to the Gulf

But the statement also called for "the lifting of the siege of brotherly Iraq to end the suffering of the Iraqi peo-President Saleh urged his party to fight tribalism and

regionalism threatening Ye-

men's unity a year after the Mr. Saleh closed the GPC congress urging his party "to act forcefully against the phenomenon of regionalism and tribalism and fight (the prac-

tice of) vendettas in Yemeni

Tribes exert more influence over their people than the central government throughout much of Yemen. particularly in the north, and avenge wrongs their own tribesmen suffer at the hands

of other tribes. The northern-hased government is also trying to eli-minate the divide between north and south after its forces won the May-July civil war last year.

Mr. Saleh repeated "the GPC's commitment to support democratic action, participate actively in political life, and help Yemenis alleviate their suffering." Mr. Saleh's party has also

He is currently on leave but the building was crowded sought to reorganise in the with U.N. military and civiface of political gains by Al lian personnel when the shell The Yemeni president also said his party will remain

"This is the third day run-"open to all those who want ning that shells and rounds have landed close to U.N. to join" and called on mem-Bosnia headquarters," said bers to "mobilise" for the U.N. spokesman Lieutenant next legislative elections.

Rupert Smith.

injured.

Sarajevo, target U.N. Colonel Gary Coward, adding that Sunday's shelling was prohably a deliberate attack.

> Two Associated Press journalists were slightly injured when two more shells landed just outside the U.N. compound some 45 minutes after the first attack. As shells continued, the city's mayor said a Bosnian

army offensive to ease the Serbs' stranglehold siege was exacting a terrible price on casualties but it was his people's only hope. "We will take the risk of fighting for survival if the

other option is surrender and survival," Mayor Tarik Kupusovic told Reuters. He spoke as the city's morgue gathered the 13 victims of Saturday's fierce Serb shelling which the U.N. conde-

mned as indiscriminate and

deliberate targeting of civi-

While the U.N. said the shelling was random and apparently unconnected to offensive activity by Muslimled forces, city dwellers were convinced the attacks were

revenge for successes by their

eyes of U.N. observers.

Mr. Kupusovic rejected the argument that the government had brought unecessary woes on its people. pointing out that shelling had increased, water and power been cut off and all aid supplies blocked before the offensive began.

European Union envoy Carl Bildt, who met Croatian President Franjo Tudjman on his second tour of former Yugoslavia, said Serbia would have to do more than recognise Bosnia if international sanctions against it were to be lifted.

He said Serbia would have to help "acbieve changes" on the ground in Bosnia, and there would have to be freedom of movement for humanitarian aid convoys.

He also said talks between the warring parties in Bosnia are "not immiment."

'The situation is going from bad to worse and that's what we are trying to make very clear to all parties," Mr. Bildt said.

(Continued on page 7)

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's Islamic patron Hassan Al Tourabi said on Saturday Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has been blaming Khartoum for an attempt to kill him to deflect attention from Egypt's problems with

Islamic militancy.
Dr. Tourabi denied Sudan had any links with last week's failed bid to assassinate Mr. Mubarak in Ethiopia but said the Sudanese people were "highly mobilised" to confront any Egyptian military strike against their country in retaliation.
"Mubarak is trying to di-

vert the attention completely from the domestic Egyptian crisis and the opposition to bis government," Dr. Toura-bi told Reuters at his modest Khartoum office.

"Islamic militancy is his only obsession. His Excellency the president (Mubarak) onty released actuatty his obsession when the accident scared him." he added.

Mr. Mubarak has repeatedly criticised Dr. Tourabi, implying that Sudan was bebind the ambush on bis motorcade in Addis Ababa last Monday. In public re-marks, he said a Sudanese man, Mohammad Seraj, had masterminded the assassmation bid.

Dr. Tourabi, widely regarded as the real power behind the Khartoum government, blamed the escalation of diplomatic tensions between Egypt and Sudan on

"It is obvious that Sudan was not involved at all," said the slim, bearded leader wearing traditional white robes and turban. "The attack happened in Ethiopia and the president himself sbould have seen who attack-"The anthorities in



**Lebanon** 

BEIRUT (AFP) - Leba-

non's television stations are

brewing up for a war of the

beauty contests, organising a

host of competing events and

offering bundreds of

thousands of dollars in prizes

to tempt would-be beauty

Hundreds of young women

are boping to secure one of

the many titles up for grabs in

July, such as Miss Lebanon,

Miss Brunette, Miss Blonde.

and the Most Beautiful Girl

Organisers are promising tempting gifts and cash prizes

in a country reeting from economic hardship and

in Lebanon.

Bassan Tourabi

Ethiopia said they were Arabs but he panicked and immediately turned against Sudan," he added.

Shortly after he spoke, Ethiopia said its security forces shot dead three beavily armed gunmen on the run in Addis Ababa since the failed assassination attempt. It said the gunmen were of Arab

origin.
Dr. Tourabi, a Western-educated lawyer who was an Islamic activist as a Khartoum university student in the 1950s, said be was not alarmed by the "unfortunate" Egyptian troop buildup on the disputed border area of Halaib on the Red Sea.

He said be hoped Cairo would not go as far as to attack Sudan, but be added that "the Sudanese are now highly mobilised" to face any emergencies.

A senior Egyptian official said on Saturday Cairo bad no intentions of attacking Sudan after the Egyptian press called for action to punish Khartoum. Dr. Tourabi also warned

that Egypt's main water supply, the Nile, was under Sudanese control, running tbrough Sudan before reaching Egypt.

"We do not want to aggra-vate nationalist tensions... but the water supplies come from this country. They (Egypt) have no underground supply of water and if Sudan is provoked to interfere with water agreements this is going to be deadly," he

A smiling Tourabi mocked Mr. Mubarak's threats to take unspecified action against Sudan, saying he wished the Egyptian leader had also threatened Israel. "It would be silly to be thrown into this crisis... by

one person whose temper is running a little bit wild," he Dr. Tourabi said the Egypthans were banning any sup-plies to cross from Sudan into Halaib, adding: "That would probably aggravate the rela-tionship between Sudan and

Speaking softly and chnck-ling trequently at his own remarks, Dr. Tourabi turned the tables on Egypt, accusing it of supporting an interna-

Sudan of terrorism. Egypt has repeatedly accused Sudan of sheltering and training militants who have been trying to topple Mr. Mubarak's 14-year rule since



ON THE BEACH: Two Algerian girls wearing traditional attire enjoy a sunny day with their boyfriends on an Algiers beach. The government announced that a nightly curfew is

going to be cut by one and a half hour a day as of July 5, the country's independence day (see page 12) (AFP photo)

enemy, there could be a grea-

ter emphasis on internat poli-

tics and less tolerance for Mr.

The president has long

hosted Palestinian groups still

intent on undermining agree-

ments with Israel. But the factions are likely to get

booted out as part of any peace agreement. It is not clear where they would go,

though they say they can survive without Syrian sup-

"We only depend on the logistic support of the Syrians and we think we can do with-

out it," said Nayef Hawat-meh, leader of the Democra-

tic Front for the Liberation of

The overriding peace issue control of the Golan

Heights, which Israel seized

from Syria in 1967. Syria

demands an unconditional

withdrawal from the Heights,

while Israel wants full di-

plomatic ties and open bor-

ders in return for relin-

turn every inch under their

occupation," said Syrian Vice

President Abdul Halim

Khaddam. "How can we nor-

malise (relations) when they

petition between beauty con-

Miss Lebannn contest, after

contests

'We were hoping that the

still hold our land?

tests as "a pity".

'They (Israel) have to re-

Assad's iron rule.

### Assad sells peace to Syrians - but are they buying? the majority. Without Israel as an

By Salah Nasrawi The Associated Press

DAMASCUS — President Hafez Al Assad sends envoys to talk peace with Israel, but many Syrians have still not warmed to the idea of doing business with the Jewish

Syrian businessmen worry they will lose ont if their Israeli counterparts are allowed to move in. Militant Palestinian groups suspect they will be kicked out of the country as part of the deal. And problems with the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord hint at future difficulties Syria could

"I don't mind the govern-ment issuing visus to Israelis, but doing business with them is a different matter. I can't -do it," said Osmane Aidi, a prominent businessman and owner of the Cham chain of hotels.

Not all Syrians take such a hardline view, but both Syrians and Israelis remain other after decades of con-

"The problem is, what sort of peace will we get in the end?" asked Mr. Aidi. Mr. Assad bas been laying the groundwork for a peace pact since joining the Middle East talks in 1991.

Peace overtures have been accompanied by a loosening of the state-controlled economy, and the economic growth rate is a healthy six per cent. A peace treaty could give the economy a further boost

by bringing in badly needed investments from overseas, Tourism, which brought Syria a record \$3.5 billion last year, also stands to benefit. Information Minister Mobammad Salman said the government has been working to "educate" the public on the importance of peace. But some Syrians have been slow to come around.

"People have doubts, and nobody can blame them because they have suffered for a long time from wars and conflicts" with Israel, said Abdul Hamid Malakani, directorgeneral of the Syrian Chamber of Industry.

Businessmen feel they could be pushed aside, not only by Western companies. but also by large Israeli firms. particularly in industries such as construction and tourism.

On the political front, Mr. Assad, a member of the minority Alawite sect, could face new challenges from Sunni Muslims who make up

#### U.S. names Gulf armada 5th Fleet

DUBAI (AFP) - U.S. Navy ships in the Gulf and the Red Sea have been named the 5th fleet to reflect the nature of the force which helped eject Iraq from Kuwait in 1991, a spokesman said Sunday.
The current force of 10,000

sailors, an aircraft carrier and 14 other ships will not be increased with Saturday's recommissioning of the 5th fleet, which served in the Pacific Ocean during World War II, Commander T. McCreary said.

It is simply an "administra-tive realignment" with the navy's four other fleets around the world," Com, McCreary said, "We might as well call it a fleet, because people in the navy under-stand a fleet."

Since the 1991 Gulf war.

the navy force has been tasked with enforcing the international embargo on Iraq and its carrier-based warplanes have barred Iraqi aircraft from flying over the southern parts of the coun-

Vice-Admiral John Scott Redd, whn has overseen the region as commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command since 1994, is now also commander of the 5th Fleet.

The 5th Fleet, which comes under Florida-based U.S. Central command, helps assure access to Middle East oil resources, help Gulf Arab states maintain security and deter threats.

The region covers 19 countries, from Egypt in the west to Pakistan in the east, Iraq in the north and Kenya in the south, and includes the Arabian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and parts of the Indian

Besides the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln, the force is made up of two submarines, as well as frigates. cruisers, and destroyers,

The U.S. Navy, which has been based in Bahrain since 1949 although it is not mentioned officially at the request of Arab countries, has reinforced its presence in the region since the fiter stages of the 1980-1988 tran-lraq

incess the a theopial ... [10][144]]

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

## Vatican to attend Baghdad conference

AMMAN (AP) - The Vatican will participate in a Christian conference that will open in Iraq on Tuesday to express support the people of the sanctions-hit country, the express support the people of the sanctions-nit country, the Holy See's representative to Jordan said Sunday. Monsignor Raouf Najjar said the conference, entitled "Church in the Service of Peace and Humanity," will also "express support" for the U.S. backed Arab-Israeti peace process, support for the U.S. backed Arab-Israeti peace process, of which Iraq is critical. "The Vatican agreed that the meeting he hold in Iraq as an arrangement of Christian meeting be held in Iraq as an expression of Christian solidarity with the Iraqi people," who are suffering under international sanctions imposed following the August 1990 traqi invasion of Kuwait. Monsignor. Najjar said. The conference will discuss an action said trage invasion. conference will discuss various religious and humanitarian issues, he added. Iraq has about 800,000 Christians, most of them Chaldean Thursday is leaded. of them Chaldeans. They also include Assyrians, Roman Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants.

### U.N. extends W. Sahara mandate

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council has voted unanimously to extend the mandate for the U.N. mission in Western Sahara by three months and said it was committed to holding a referendum on the future of the territory. The Polisarin Front suspended its participation in U.N. voter identification earlier this week, claiming that Morocco was improperly adding people to voter lists. The council said it was concerned by "continuing interruptions caused by the two parties" and urged them "to reconsider, recent relevant decisions." In a statement issued after the vnte, the United States said it "fully expects that the delays and problems that have plagued this operation for four years will finally be overcome and that a free, fair and impartial referendum... will occur early in 1996." The statement warned that "neither we nor the U.N. can continue to pour resources into operations for which we

#### Kuwaiti loan to rehabilitate Beirut airport

BEIRUT (AP) — Kuwait is providing a \$50 million loan to help rehabilitate and expand Beirut international airport, a Kuwaiti official said. The low-interest loan comes from the Kuwaiti Fund for Development, said Badr Al Mashari Al Hmeidi. director general of the agency. A four-year project to expand the airport's passenger terminals and build a third runway are part of a plan to restore the facility as a transit point for flights to Europe. Africa, the Middle and Far East. The cost of the project, expected to be completed by 1998, is estimated at \$400 million. It is part of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hatiri's \$18 billion programme to rebuild Lebanon from the 1975-90 civil war.

#### Hassan II congratulates new emir of Qatar

RABAT (AFP) - King Hassan II of Morocco bas congratulated the new emir of Oatar, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, who overthrew his father in a bloodless s coup last week. In the message, the monarch wished Sheikh Hamad success as Qatari leader and hoped for the "progress, prosperity and well-being" of the people of Qatar. Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani was ousted on Tuesday while on a private visit to Switzerland.

#### Head of Coptic Church visits Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) - The Patriareh of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Pope Shenuda III, arrived here on Saturday from Egypt on his second visit to Lebanon since 1972. He will attend the enthronement of the new head of the Armenian Orthodox Church, Bishop Aram Kasheshian, who was elected Catholicos of the House of Cilicia on Wednesday in ebanon. Pope Shenuda was also expected to inaugurate a Coptie Church in Beirut on Sunday. On Tnesday he will be the guest at a luncheon organised by President Élias Hrawi and is also expected to give a press conference before Beirut airport where cabinet ministers and other figures were at hand to greet him.

#### Turkish troops kill 11 Kurdish rebels

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — Turkish troops, stepping up recent attacks against Kurdish guerrillas in Turkey, killed 11 insurgents Sunday, the regional governor's office said. Two soldiers were killed. The clashes occurred in southeastern Sirnak, Sirrt and Van provinces, said the governor's office, based here. Security forces killed 49 rebels in several clashes last week. The guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) have been fighting for autonomy in the southeast since 1984. The violence has claimed more than 16,000 lives since then.

#### Court to rule on controversial film in August CAIRO (AFP) - An Egyptian appeals court will rule in

August on two cases filed by the mystic Sufi sect and by a Christian lawyer against the film "The Emigrant," which they say attacks religion, legal officials said Sunday. The court decided in June to join the two trials, the latest in a flurry of litigation against the controversial film, which was banned by an earlier hearing before the decision was nverturned on appeal. The court will rule nn Aug. 27. The Sufi sect, which counts six million followers in Egypt, wants the ban reimposed saving the film vinlates Islamic law by depicting Prophet Joseph. son of Jacob. Coptic Christian lawyer Hosni Himi Abadis has accused the film of offending Christianity and altering events depicted in the Bible. Mahmud Abul Faid, the Islamist lawyer who first won a ban in December, has filed for the March appeal decision to be suspended which allowed the film to be shown again. On Saturday the court decided to adjourn until Aug. 5 Mr. Abul Faid's case, legal officials said.

#### where the minimum wage stands at \$150 per month. The fiercest battle pits

Lebanon's most popular commercial television, the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC), against the

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. =3111-19

second favourite private channel, MTV. LBC, which is organising

Miss Lebanon, has promised its beanty queen more than \$100,000 worth of gifts, including \$1,500 per month for a year, a car, jewellery, life insurance and clothes galore. "More than 200 girls bave

already auditioned and we expect many more," Rony Jazzar of Star Wave. which is organising the contest for LBC and insists it has the backing of the tourism ministry.
MTV is counter-attacking

with the "Most Beautiful Girl in Lebanon" contest, which television officials said will allow the winner to represent Lebanon in the 1996 Miss Universe contest for which it obtained exclusive nights. State-rnn Tele-Liban

joined the fray and is plan-

ning for July a "Beauty Night" to elect the most beautiful brunette, the most beautiful blonde and... the most bandsome Lebanese

The race has come under a lot of fire from Lebanese, some of whom accuse television channels of exploiting beauty for purely commercial

beantiful, there is something sad in these contests," said Nidal Ashkar, actress and theatre owner.

a positive aspect of our socie-

"spoil my vision of beauty."

channels at war over beauty

concerns. "As much as beauty is

"It is pure and simple ex-

ploitation of women and not Ms. Asbkar said she was

not opposed to beauty contests as such but felt that the organisation and the media race accompanying them

"A beauty contest should be done in style, with taste. It's not a question of women only. It's like everything else being done in the country. Instead of rebuilding its reputation we're destroying it systematically." said a woman journalist who asked

not to be named. Wadad Shakhtura, president of the Lebanese Democratic Women's Association. compared the beauty contests to advertisements which use the female body to sell a

product. "We're talking about another form of exploitation like ads to sell soft drinks, or cigarettes or any other thing which is bad for your health. With beauty contests they exploit the woman's beauty in

exchanges for prizes."
Star Wave's Isabelle Jreissati described the fierce com-

EMERGENCIES

all these years of (civil) war, would be a real symbol for the country, Ms. Jeessan Many people said they

could not be bothered to watch the contests which will be broadcast live in July. It is a far cry from 24 years ago when Lebanon held its breath as the then Miss Leba-

non, Georgina Rizk, was in the running for the Miss Universe title. She was elected Miss Universe in 1971. "I remember the whole family sitting around the

black-and-white television set. It was a proud moment," said a Lebanese office employee who was to years old

### **JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR**

PROGRAMME TWO .. Animals of Farthing Wood 771331. The House of Ehott
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#### PRAYER TIMES

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Amman International Charch Tel Scal Lutherna Church Tel:

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology

Temperatures are expected to drup becoming around average with winds non-hwesterly active. In Agaha, winds will be mortherly moderate to active and seas calm

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 37. Aqaba 39 Humidits readings: Amman 24 per cent. Agaha 33 per cent

#### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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#### TRAIN Arr. Damascus 8:00 every Monday 5-181 p m every Monday 7:30 a.m. every Sunday Acr. Amman 5.00 p.m. every Sunday

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Apple	_
Apple	. 700° 500
Cucumbers (small)	190 / 40
Egenlani	. 160 / 90
Okra Onion (dre)	130 <i>≀ 6</i> €
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Peaches Pepper thou	450/350
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WAY

## Jardaneh says there is no move to reduce customs duties on cars

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The government on Sunday sought to put to rest widespread. reports of an impending reduction of customs duties, sales tax and other levies on passenger cars. The reports had led to a severe stagnation of the market for cars in the country by dissuading many potential huyers to await lower prices.

A statement issued by Finance Minister Basel Jardaneb after a regular meeting of the Council of Ministers said there was "no move to reduce customs duties on cars as reported by some daily newspapers."

The statement, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, emphasised that "customs duties, sales tax and other rariffs imposed on cars will remain as they are without any reduction."

Petra said the Council of Ministers discussed . "the

issue in detail and means to deal with the negative impact of such press reports

on car dealers. That was a reference to complaints by most car dealers that sales had dropped significantly in the last four months amid the on-againoff-again reports in the local press that the Ministry of Finance was poised to announce a reduction in customs duties.

Also being circulated were reports that a proposal was adopted by the Ministry of Finance to offer total/partial customs tax exemptions to cars to be used as taxis but as a replacement for existing vehicles in the country. The government offered a

customs reduction on cars in late 1994, when it cut an average of 27 to 45 per cent in slab-type structure of cus-10ms dunes on cars based on engine capacity.

Since then, there have been numerous reports that a-"second reduction" was

Supporting such an argument in the reports was a suggestion that Jordan was duty-bound to cut tariffs on cars if it were to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), an international accord that calls for the removal of most protective measures and trade harriers.

But, officials and economists familiar with Jordan's bid to enter GATT and its successor, the World Trade Organisation (WTO), point out that the Kingdom is in the very early stages of application for admission and that it was not hardpressed to adopt any measure as part of its accession.

The first draft of a general Jordanian document - that sets out the features of the Kingdom's economy and trade practices - was sent to GATT last year to a committee beaded by Singapore which is negotiating the

Kingdom's entry to the

world body. The draft was returned after a first reading and a second draft has only recently been finalised.

"Even if we assume that reducing customs duties on car is an obligation that Jordan has to undertake as a condition to entering GATT or WTO, the fact remains that Jordan is at least one year away from accession to either," noted a source who keeps a close tab on the issue.

"Again, reduction of customs duties on cars or any other tariff on any item as part of GATT membership depends on negotiations that the concerned country condncts with the concerned panel in GATT," said the source. "It is really up to Jordanian negotiators when they sit down with the GATT negotiating committo secure

favourable terms." At the same time, there has to be some reduction in customs duties on most items, including cars, as and when Jordan's entry to GATT is finalised. Again, Jordan, like other fresh entrants to GATT and WTO, will have room to seek a grace period before

implementing the reduction.
"In light of all these provisions, it is naive to assume that Jordan is going to reduce customs duries on cars simply in the context of its entry to GATT or WTO," said the source. "There may or may not be other reasons but they have nothing to do with GATT and WTO."

The U.S. government has been pressing Jordan to adopt a uniform level of customs duries on automobiles - by restructuring the tariff system to be based on the cost rather than the engine size of the automobiles.

Such a structure, according to American arguments. will make U.S.-made vehicles, which usually have a large engine size, more competitive with their lighter Japanese counterparts.

#### Also to meet demand on Egypt will commence. RI last year had to sched-U.S.-bound flights. RJ

AMMAN (Petra) - In a drive to meet the growing travel needs of the Jordanian community to the U.S. state of Michigan, Royal Jordanian (RJ) has started unschedaled flight services from Amman to Detroit during the summer, according to an RJ statement Sunday.

The service is being run on a trial basis to determine whether regular flights to

Detroit would be viable. RJ currently operates five regular flights to New York and two flights to Chicago. the statement said.

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian Depositors Protection Asso-

ciation (JDPA) Sunday

announced that a group of depositors in the defunct

Bank of Credit and Com-

merce International (BCCI) will meet during mid-July in

Cairo to appear to Luxem-

bonrg courts to allow an

Egyptian hank to represent

them in official out-of-court

negotiations with deposi-

tors, liquidators and share-

bolders and decide further

action to reclaim losses suf-

wed in the 1991 BCCI

"We have decided to

employ the Faisal Islamic

Bank of Cairo to reclaim our

rights, and lead discussions

with the relevant parties,"

said Odeh Machini, head of

"We have noticed that the

creditors committee (that is

currently bandling the nego-

tiations) has become less

efficient and less interested,

especially in the last three

months. We want a represen-

tative that will pursue our

The JDPA is part of a com-

mittee based in London

rights.," Mr. Machini said.

increased its weekly flights to Chicago to three per week until September, according to the statement.

CHECKING ON HEALTH CARE: His Royal Highness Prince Abdullab, the

Regent, Sunday meets with Minister of Health Aref Batayneh and other senior officials

of the Ministry of Health to discuss health care services and ministry projects, including means of importing medicines and food supplies and rules and regulations governing such imports. Prince Abdullah called for expanding the base of comprehensive

health insurance and primary health care services, particularly those related to children. The officials told the Regent that sufficient supplies of basic medicines were readily available in the country (Petra photo)

RJ adds flights amid increased demand

The statement said also that similar unscheduled flights from Amman to Montreal and Toronto and back to Amman have also been introduced for similar

reasons of growing demand The statement from RJ further said that as of July 1 two direct flights a week from Amman to Alexandria,

Local BCCI investors to seek compensation

working to retrieve the loss of nearly \$2 billion in

deposits sbared by ten

Islamic banks, a Luxem-

bourg holding group, a Lon-

don depositors protection

association, and a creditors

and depositors group in

Jordanian depositors con-

stitute 120 accounts with a

loss of about \$100 million.

most of which was in for-

eign currency deposits in the

group was also prepared to

file a case against BCCI, and

had filed twice to Luxem-

bourg courts, believing that

individual cases would stand

better chances for more

But legal proceedings in

the case are structured in

such a way that courts will

accept cases only from liq-

The depositors group

expected a settlement in

May, but an appeal from a

BCCI employee late in the

month said that the court's

decision involving the liq-

uidators - rumoured to be

20 per cent compensation —

was unfair. That appeal bas

delayed the decision to date.

"Our case is waiting on a

equitable settlements.

Machini said the

UK, Cyprus and France.

through representation by Egyptian bank

ule additional flights to and from Europe to meet the needs of tourists visiting the Kingdom.

Increased activity in the tourism sector following the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty brought higher demand on the airline, the statement said.

The national air carrier is planning to add on flights hetween November and December in anticipation of another peak season.

technical point," be said.

"Unless it is settled at the

liquidity level, we can not

file a case. If we have a final

decision today, i promise

that we would file our case

tomorrow.," Mr. Machini

Mr. Machini was address-

The meaning is to keep

all parties involved in this

disaster," he said. "It's been

four years and there is still

issued officially to tell

depositors that their rights will be paid in 10 years or

that they can expect 10 per

cent - we are still float-

ing.," Mr. Machini said. He said the bank has been

negligent in compensation

although "\$5 hillion are

available in the hox of liqui-

dation: \$1.8 hillion as a con-

tribution from the Abu

Dhabi government; \$1 bil-

lion as a result of settlement

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\$1 billion from the Ben

Mahfouz family; \$1 billion

in the accounts cashbox of

the bank; and the outcome of

lingation and settlements

paid by debtors in the

amount of \$1 hillion.

clear announcement

ing a press conference at the

JDPA office in Amman:

#### New curriculum streams to start in 95/96 scholastic year

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Two new subjects; sharia (Islamic law) and home economics are to be included in the curriculum of secondary schools starting in the 1995/1996 scholastic year, Ministry of Education sources said Sun-

day.
Talal Zoughy, director of Curriculum and Text Books Department at the ministry told the Jordan Times that the two new subjects will be run as educational streams, bringing the total number of streams to nine.

The seven existing curricula or educational streams are in the arts, sciences, agriculture, commerce, industry, norsing and boiel management.

"We noticed a demand among students to specialise in certain areas that are not included in other streams," Dr. Zoughy said.

According to Dr. Zoughy. sharia is currently being taught at a variety of institutes "so we decided to open a separate specialised stream in Islamic education for students who want to study Islamic law."

The sharia stream, like other streams, is to include, within its own programme of study, the four required subjects of Arabic language, English language, Islamic religion and mathematics., Dr. Zougby said.

According to Dr. Zoughy. there was an increase in demand for a specialised vocational training stream which be said was the cata-

lyst for the introduction of the home economics stream. According to Dr. Zougby, the preliminary phase of the home economics course will include cosmetology, tailoring, early childhood educa-

tion, and handicrafts. The introduction of new streams comes in line with several recent changes made by the ministry.

The latest was the introduction by the education council of two new subjects, population studies and traffic education, into all educational streams.

Dr. Zougby also said that the ministry recently com-pleted a study of the 10th grade curriculum and had collected all reference on the subject of women for compilation in a new booklet.
"We were asked by Queen
Alia Fund for Social Devel-

opment to conduct a study of all textual references to women," Dr. Zoughy said The newly compiled booklet is to be used in the 1995 U.N. Conference on Women in Beijing, be added.

Dr. Zoughy said that the

ministry's decision to amend Sunday. its textbooks comes in response to the 1987 National Conference on Education recommendations which aimed at laying new grounds for a developed national policy through wide scale reforms and the call for the adoption of an "execution mechanism" that will guarantee realisation of the resolutions through a predetermined financial, technical and chronological working

Japanese ambassador ends tour of duty in Kingdom

A highlight of tenure was the raising of bilateral ties to unprecedented levels -- Ikeda

### Minister visits Maan governorate to inspect preparations for municipal elections

Mr. Thubeirat requested

MAAN (Petra) -- Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nader Thuheirat Sunday visited Maan Governorate and met with the heads of committees in charge of supervising the municipal elections in Maan and Agaba governorates.

In reviewing the general arrangements for the elections and the voting centres, the minister expressed appreciation of the committees' work and urged them to take every possible precaution to ensure that the elections run smoothly and

according to plan

that an operations room be opened to help coordinate the committees' work which involves verifying the identity of the voters before they cast their hallots and dealing with any unexpected devel-Municipal elections are to

be held in all governorates on Tnesday, July 11. The election day bas been

declared a public holiday so that registered voters will be free to go to the polls and exercise their right to vote.

Meanwhile in Salt it was announced Sunday that all arrangements for the July ll



Nader Thuheirat municipal elections have been finalised.

## Cabinet approves phase 2 of community medicine specialisation programme

AMMAN (Petra) -The Cahinet has approved the second phase of a programme for doctors to ohtain a degree in community medicine by the Arab Board, Minister of Health Aref Batayneh announced

He said that this degree entitles its bolder to acquire the highest medical specialisation certificate in the Arah World in this field.

In view of the importance of this specialisation, the Ministry of Health created a programme to award a diploma in community medicine (the first phase) in 1991, said the minister adding that the programme was prepared in cooperation with

the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Jordanian universities. He said that 53 Jordanian

physicians have already taken this programme for wnich a year-loog a study is required. The ministry has recom-

mended to the cabinet that the second phase of the programme, which takes two years to complete, be approved, said Dr Batayneh wbo noted that the ministry will start the second phase

According to the ministry, community medicine is vital for the country as it contributes towards better organising comprehensive medical service and helps to

promote and improve the health system.

The community medicine programme aims at defining and analysing existing and expected flearin problems in the community, taking into account demographic, geographic, economic social considerations.

It is intended also to help in planning and managing primary health care services and involves coordination between health sectors operating in the country.

In sbort, said the ministry. community medicine helpless to adapt health systems to cater to the actual health care needs of the community and enhance health services and their effectiveness.

"Diva" at the French Cultural . re at 8:00 p.m.

"The Civil War: the cause 1861," at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

"The Fatimid Textiles in the Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin," by Mrs. Gisela Helnecke at the National Gallery at 6:00 p.in.

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Art.

Works by Iraqi artist Tahija Al Hakim at Ah'ad At

Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Exhibition of works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

September 1991, when the Arab-Israeli peace process was launched, were witnesses to history being made in the region with the breakthroughs in the Israeli-Pales-tinian and Israeli-Jordanian tracks. But for someone like Japanese Ambassador Yuji Ikeda the years also represented a major achievement unprecedented level.

countries and the first "Jordan Week" in Japan - "the culmination of efforts to

boost bilateral relations." Abdullah and Princess

On the other side, Their Imperial Highnesses Crown

Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako became the first members of the Japanese royal family to visit Jordan since 1976 after the then crown prince and now Emperor Akibito and Empress Michiko came to the Kingdom.

On the diplomatic level, then Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali visited Japan in late 1993, and the Japanese foreign minister was in Amman in May 1994. These were all huilding

stones in furthering the traditionally strong Japanese-Jordanian relations, Mr. Ikeda noted in a pre-depar-ture interview with the Jordan Times.

On the political front, Japan has advanced its ment" that he was a party to while in Jordan, be said, noting that Japan chairs the multilateral working group

on the environment.

very courageous initiative to make peace and play a strong role in the overall peacemaking process in the region," added Mr. Ikeda, in a reference to the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed in October.

Jordan plays in the region and the need to help the Kingdom," he said. As a result, it is only natural that many countries, including Japan, are ready to extend aid to Jordan, "but it is a matter of the individual policies and approaches of the countries concerned on how this willingness is translated into action."

The visit of Crown Prince Hassan to Japan in May and the "Jordan Week" held there have led to a new era in relations in that Tokyo was

Jordan, he said.

That understanding was further cemented by the recent visit of a senior; Japanese delegation to Amman, he said.

"They had a very clear and frank exchange of views with Jordanian officials," including the Crown Prince, said the ambassador, who was honoured by His Majesty King Hussein as well as the Jordan-Japan Friendship Association for his contribution and services to developing bilateral rela-

The delegation has taken back "very clear ideas on Jordan" and now it is a matter of formulating the right measure and approach to help the Kingdom, said the ambassador, who has served in Geneva, Washington D.C., Canada and Hong Kong after joining the Japanese foreign service in

1962 at the age of 24. Another point of personal pride for Mr. Ikeda while in Jordan was that it was during this period that his only son graduated from a U.S. law school and is now practising law in New York.

Tokyo government highly appreciated Jordan's contrihution to peacemaking and noted that Amman started receiving Japanese grant aid since 1993 after the decline in the per capita income of the Kingdom qualified it to receive such assistance under parameters adopted hy Tokyo.

Ambassador Ikeda said the

Amman received nearly \$40 millioo in grant aid in the last two years, and the amount for 1995 is still under discussion. Japan, which bolds about

\$1.8 billion of Jordan's foreign debts, is bound by policy not to offer debt cancellation to any country and continue to extend loans to the same country. Mr. Ikeda noted. As such, the focus now is

on how to come up with a formula that would allow the Tokyo government to extend aid to Jordan without stepping away from "the framework of its various policy measures," said the ambassador, who leaves Jordan on Tuesday.

A successor to Mr.lkeda is expected here in about one



Yuji Ikeda

Mr. Ikeda said he had high respect for the industriousness of Jordanians. "Jordanians have been trying to develop their human potential and resources to make up for the shortfall in natural resources....this is a very commendable effort," the envoy said.

"I bope they will continue their efforts," he said. "Japan stands ready to help in whatever manner it can."

Ministry gets new secretary general Amman (Petra)— The Cabinet Saturday appointed Farouq Naghaway as Secretary General of the Ministry of Social Development, succeeding Snleiman Rousan. Meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sbarif Zeid Ben Sbaker, the cabinet also approved the secondment of Rafi' Shahin, who is currently an an advisor at the prime ministry to the Ministry of Information as of July 16.

#### WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

LECTURE

Paintings by Jordanian Artist Muhammad Majali at the

Ali Jabri, "Selected Works '85/'95" at Darat Al Funun, until

AMMAN - Most diplomats wbo served in Jordan since

- raising bilateral ties to an Mr. Ikeda, who took up his post two and a half years ago and is returning to the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo this week, notes that he saw a very high level of exchange of visits between the two

Jordanian visitors to Japan included Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, Princess Basma, Prince

quest to move away from the role of a traditional banker and assume a political role in the Middle East with high-profile activities in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process, said Mr. Ikeda. "That is the most important developIn general. "I'm very

pleased that I was a witness to the very important and historic events that the region saw in the last two and a half years," Ambassador Ikeda said

"We saw Jordan taking a

al consensus on the role that

There is wide internation-

able to better understand

## 4 World News

## Sri Lankan army to probe slaughter of 110 soldiers

The Sri Lankan army Sunday began an investigation into an attack by separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas who killed at least 110 soldiers at their northern Mandaitivu base last week, a military spokesman said Sunday.

A three-member team beaded by a major-general was appointed to investigate Wednesday's attack carried out hy a large group of guerrillas from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), spokesman Sarath Munasing-

"It is a routine court of inquiry which will look into the circumstances of the case and account for the weapons in the camp as well as order compensation to the victims," Mr. Munasinghe said.

The LTTE pulsersied the camp despite the army being alerted by intelligence authorines 24 hours in advance about the impending assault just two kilometres (1.25 miles) away from the LTTE's

stronghold of Jaffna. The military elaimed kill-ing 50 rebels in a counter offensive but the LTTE has admitted losing only eight of their own fighters, including

Sri Lankan newspapers

Sunday for its failure to repulse the rebel attack.

In an editorial headlined "all at sca", the Sunday Times said the jungle-scrub island of Mandaitiv, had been allowed to become a "virtual sitting duck," defended only by a newly tormed unit of

A thousand "sea Tigers" stormed the island in the early hours last Wednesday. making off with almost the entire armoury, including heavy artillery pieces. The rebets lost more than 50 of their own men, the army

says.
"The (rebels') task was all the more difficult because the garrison was virtually sur-rounded by sea," the Sunday Times said. "But some of the sentries were apparently sleeping and the searchlights were off with only a captain in charge of the whole

The head of army military intelligence has been dismissed despite tipping off the top brass about the planned attack by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eclam, sources said Sunday.

"Since the collapse of the peace talks, Sri Lankan security forces have been suffering disaster after disaster the Sunday Island newspaper

"Newspapermen are not military strategists but it has to be pointed out that even an elementary schoolboy would say that something is seriously amiss with the military command in the north."

The LTTE broke off a ceasefire on April 19 and have since stepped up attacks, downing two air force transport planes, killing 42 civilians in the east and now killing more than 100 servicemen at Mandaitivu.

The Tigers are fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east in a war in which more than 50,000 people have died since 1983. The Island newspaper said

the army knew two days in advance that Mandainvu was going to be attacked.
"Yet when the attack came, only 350 of the 700 soldiers of the 10th Gemunu Watch Battalion solely re-

sponsible for the defence of

Mandaitivu were on the island," it said. The rest, it said, were either on leave or at a nearby air base preparing to return from leave. Nor was there any air cover until the fight-

It was the heaviest casualty toll suffered by government forces since the Tigers stormed the Poonaryn army camp, south of Jaffna lagoon, in November, 1993.

The army, which Wednesday described the Tiger attack as a "well-planned, well-thought out" operation, denies it was caught napping.

"We had intelligence that the LTTE were considering an attack," military spokes-man Lieutenant-Colonel S. Handapangoda said Thursday, "We were not surprised. We were there ready to fight. That's wby there were so many casualties."

Meanwhile a human right group said Sunday Tamil Tiger rebels use children as combattants.

The University Teachers for Human Rights (UTHR), a rights group comprised of Tamil academics who have fled the Tiger-ruled northeastern Jaffina province for fear of LTTE attacks, said in its latest report that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam or Tamil Tigers was recruiting child soldiers to

fight its separatist war.
"The children are growing up in a militarised environment, having constantly faced bombing and shelling.

Pope



ceremony at the Greek Ortho-

## Greek prince's wedding noted mostly for lawmakers' attendance

muted, with the respected,

liberal daily Eleftherotypia

being the only major news-

"The 10 New Democracy

deputies are pitiful carica-

tures in a well-produced fies-

ta. But they provoke demo-cratic sensibilities with their

presence at the wedding," it

The monarchy was estab-lished in 1863 and after a

turbulent history was abo-lished in 1974 in a referen-

dum conducted by the New Democracy Party. About a

third of those who voted were.

in favour of maintaining the

monarchy. Its support is be-

lieved to be minimal today,

Greece has a parliamen-

tary system, with a figure-

head president who is elected

by the 300-member un-

There were so many royal

guests at the wedding that kings and queens from all over Europe rode on buses to see the exiled crown prince of

Greece marry the daughter of

an American-born mil-

In the ornate Byzantine

cameral chamber.

issue on its front page.

ATHENS (AP) — There was little public reaction in Greece to the wedding of former Crown Prince Pavlos. the heir to a throne that was abolished by referendum 21

years ago.

Much of the debate around the wedding bas focused on the attendance of 10 members of the conservative New Democracy Party who accepted ex-King Constantine's invitation. Socialist Premier Andreas Papandreou said last month that any deputies who attended the wedding should resign.

The Socialist Party's general secretary, Akis Tsochadzopoulos, echoed his leader Saturday, attacking the conservative deputies by implying that they were trying to question the parliamentary

They are chameleons of the democratic system," he said.

"There is a great need for all Greeks to defend the constitotional system of the country and oot allow any doubts agaiost it. These gentlemen have a lot to answer

Alexandros Papagoggonas, former conservative cabinet minister, said before leaving for London: "No one tells me what to do."

Headlines Saturday were

Miller were married Saturday

splendor of St. Sophia Cathedral, Crown Prince Pavlos and Marie-Chantal

honaire.

by a Greek Orthodox pat-

Mr. Mandela was being

Alfred Nzo. He is scheduled to meet Japanese leaders ineluding Prime Minister Tomiichi Mutayama and

dela was disappointed during his 1991 visit at Tokyo's refusal to provide funds to his African National Congress party because it said it aided governments not political

"The visits will serve to strengthen all-round relations between South Africa and these two east Asian countries, with particular focus on the expansion of mutually beneficial trade and investment links. Development aid will also feature in the talks." Mr. Mandela's office said in a

statement Saturdas.

## The hour-long service was hroadcast live in Greece.

Greeks who support the current republie are angry that the wedding is rekindling debate about the monatchy. Royalty from around the world turned out to support

riarch, an archbishop and

several bishops before the

biggest gathering of toyals since Queen Elizabeth II

married Prince Philip in

the Greek monarchy, a tribute to the prince's father. ex-King Constantine, who has lived in London since a military coup in 1967, and is a favourite in international royal circles. For many royal observers.

it was reminiscent of the late 19th century marriages between European nobles short on money and American beiresses. These included Consuelo Vanderbilt who married the Duke of Marlborough in 1895, the same year department store heiress Mary Leiter married Lord

Curzoo. King Constantine is a eousin of Prince Philip, brother of Queen Sofia of Spain, brother-in-law of Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, and godfather to Prince William, the soo of Prince Charles and Princess

#### Grant, Hurley home together, but not happy

LONDON (AFP) - The reunion of actor Hugh Grant and his longtime girlfriend Liz Hurley in their country house near Bath in southwestern England did not go well, the actress' mother said. Grant, the star of Four Weddings And A Funeral, was in Hollywood promoting his new movie when he was arrested Tuesday allegedly for engaging in sex with a prostitute in his white BMW. Angela Hurley told reporters that her daughter was "feel-ing down." "Liz rang me last night and she was not in particularly good spirits," the mother said. "Yesterday was a very difficult day, and things are certainly not easy. Liz told me her house was under seige at the moment." Hurley left the home alone

#### Japanese live longer and longer

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese men and women, who have the world's longest life expectaney, extended it further last year, according to a govern-ment report released Sunday. A typical Japanese woman now lives 82.98 years, up nearly six months on the 1994 report. The average male h lives 76.57 years, four months longer than the last time the Health and Welfare Ministry released its research. According to the ministry. Japanese women have had the world's longest life expectancy for the past nine years and men for the past eight years. French women held the second longest life span of 80.94 years, while leelandic men came second to their Japanese counterparts, living an average 75.74 years, the ministry report said.

#### Tabloid: 'Divine Brown' did not recognise Grant

LONDON (AP) - Prostitute Stella Marie Thompson said she didn't know Hugh Grant was a movie star until . after they were arrested together in Los Angeles, a British newspaper said Sunday. The News Of The World quoted the 25-year-old prostitute as saying Grant paid her \$60 for oral sex in his car. "I told him that for \$40 more we could've gone to a room — and never have been caught," but he said he had only \$60 with him, the tabloid quoted her as saving. Grant and Ms. Thompson, who uses the name Divine Brown and was convicted twice of prostitution in 1993, were arrested Tuesday and charged with public lewdness. Grant issued no immediate response to Ms. Thompson's interview. He has made no statement since his initial expression of regret over an "insane" action, and has been talking with his girlfriend Liz Hurley at their rented country house in western England. "The guy had a baseball cap pulled down over his eyes. It looked like he was trying to hide his face." Ms. Thompson was quoted as saying. "He said wow, your lips are fabulous," said his name was Lewis and told me I looked gorgeous. 1 said 'ves. I am' 'Ms. Thompson reportedly said she teased him by asking. whether it was his fantasy to have sex with a black woman. 'He said 'yes, that's my fantasy. And I said well, honey, you just got it." When she told him her name was Di-

### children get message

They saw anti-vote-buying officials say vote-buying has to Thailand's general election with millions of dollars spent. to ensure success at the polls.

#### TOKYO (R) - At least 27 "We do not expect the number of people affected by people were made ill by mysmade 5,500 ill. tery fumes at a subway sta-

tion in the Japanese port city of Yokohama Sunday, creating new poison-gas concerns The 27 were taken to hos-

pital from the Kamioka Station in Yokohama, 30 kilometres west of Tokyo, after they were exposed to the fumes at about 3 p.m. (0600 GMT), a spokesman for the Yokohama Fire Department told Reuters.

All were complaining of sore throats and pain in their eyes but were "not in a serious condition," the spokesidentified, he added. the fumes to increase," he

Japan subway mystery fumes injure 27

Police were investigating, a police spokesman told Reuters, adding that no suspicious objects or materials had been found.

"This is a very deplorable incident. We are worried about a chain reaction by copy cats," the police spokesman said. "We will do whatever

we can to prevent them." He refused to speculate on wbether the latest incident was linked to the doomsday cult accused of involvement gas attack on Tokvo subway that killed 11 people and

ing was over, it added.

"At present, we can't say whether Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth Sect) was responsible for the incident," the police spokesman said. An Aum spokeswoman refused to comment on Sun-

day's incident.
"I am not in a position to say anything," she told Reu-

Cult leader Shoko Asahara and several top followers face murder and attemptedmurder charges in connection with the Tokyo subway

#### in the March 20 sarin nerve-Monaco's Princess Stephanie finally weds father of her 2 children

MONTE CARLO. Monaco (AP) - Ending four years of speculation, Princess Stephanie of Monaco married her former bodyguard and father of their two children in a simple civil ceremony amid tight security.

Princess Stephanie, 30, the youngest daughter of Prince Rainier and the late Princess Grace, and Daniel Ducruet, 31, were wed at Monaco's Town Hall in a late afternoon ceremony Saturday attended by about 40 people.

The princess' first cousin. the Baroness Elisaheth-Anne De Massy, and Mr. Ducruet's brother Alain were witnesses to the marriage, performed by Mayor Anne-Marie Campora at the Town Hall, atop the huge took near the prince's palace. Inside was a large flower

display of white princess roses and peonies. A crowd of tourists and

well-wishers near the town hall didn't cet a glimpse of the princess and her groom as they entered through the teat garden, which connects to their private villa. Photographers kept 50

metres away by police nevertheless got pictures through a wrought iron fence of Stephanie in a white wedding gown with lace sleeves, her dark brown hair falling over her shoulders, and Mr. Ducruet in a dark suit.

"Bravo, DD, you finally got her shouted a woman who had been waiting outside the town office. The woman, a hrunette who looked in her late 20s, then strode off with her poodle.

The bells of Monaco's cathedral pealed across the tiny principality on France's Mediterranean coast.

The wedding put an end to a tour-year battle between Princess Stephanie and her tather over whether she would marry Mr. Ducruet, a former pet shop salesman and fishmonger who is known

to be quick to get in fistfights. Mr. Ducruet, the son of a Petanque (lawn howling) champion and a Vespa scootet saleswoman, was a bodsguard in the service of Monaco's palace. He and Princess Stephanie met when, at the suggestion of Prince Rainiet. Mr. Ducruet was assigned to protect the princess during a promotional tour during Princess Stephanie's shortlived cateer as a rock singer



to an unidentified guest as she leaves the Mon Carlo City Hall after she married her longtime loser and father of her two children, former bodyguard Daniel Ducruet (AFP photo)

Mr. Ducruet has previous-Is been married and reportedly is waiting for an annullment of that marriage in order to wed Princess Stephanie in a Catholic cere-

In addition to the 2 1/2 vear-old son Louis and veatold daughter Pauline he has had with Princess Stephanie. Mr. Ducruet is also the father of a three-year-old boy with a third woman.

Prince Rainier was teported strongly opposed to Princess Stephanie's relationship with Mt. Ducruet. According to Monagesque law, a member of the royal family cannot be married without the permission of the soveteign.

Princess Stephanic and Mt. Ducruet hosted a dinner for ahout 50 guests Saturday esening at the Piston Restaurant at the Locws Hotel in Monte Carlo.

The couple discreetly entered the hotel via an outside staircase as helicopters catrying photographers buzzed overhead.

Prince Rainier and his son Prince Albert, heir to the throne and Princess Stephanie's elder brother, attended the wedding but not the din-

Despite the parental opposition, the couple have been living together in Princess Stephanie's 1.200-

squate-metre (15.000-squarefootl villa about a threeminute walk from the palace. Since the couple have been together the headstrong Princess Stephanie has been noticeably absent from events involving the rosal family.

Their children were baptized on Easter Monday this vear, the first time Prince Rainier and the rest of Monaco's royal tamily appeared in public with Mr. Ducruet and members of his family.

That was thought to symbolise Prince Rainier's acquiescence to the telationship, and to pave the way for the marriage.

Contrary to the media cireus that characterised the weddings of Prince Rainier to the former Grace Ketty and even of Princess Stephanie's elder sister Princess Caroline. when journalists outnumbered guests, Princess Stephanie's marriage Saturday was a strictly private

affair. At least two photographers crowding around the town hall were escorted over the border to France by Monagesque Police. No announcements were made by the palace, as is customary

with the Grimalor family. There were no known plans for a honesmoon. The couple have just returned from a holiday in the Canary Islands with their children.

### honours **Protestants** killed by Catholics KOSICE, Slovakia (R)

Pope Jobo Pauil paid tribute to Protestants killed by Catholics in the 17th century Sunday as be made amends for perceived religious insensitivity during his visit to Slo-

He spoke of "praise and admiration" for martyrs of all Christian confessions after a service to confer sainthood on three Catholic priests tor-tured to death by Calvinist forces had alieoated the minority Slovak Evangelical

Addressing the open-air mass io the eastern city of Kosice, where the three priests were killed in 1619 during the Thirty Years War, the Pope told a huge crowd that Slovak Christians of various confessions had paid for their faith with their lives.

He made special mentioo of 24 Calvinists pastors executed in the Slovak town of Presov in 1687 by Catholic Habsburg forces, saying that the Roman Catholic Church could not fail to acknowledge their "spiritual greatness."

"To them and to all who accepted suffering and death out of fidelity to the dictates of their conscience the church gives praise and expresses admiration," the Pope said.

He was due to visit a monument to the 24 martyrs in Presov later Sunday in an unscheduled late addition to his four-day visit to strongly Catholic Slovakia.

The stop, on the way to a meeting with Eastern rite Catholics io Presov, was announced Saturday after several thousand Protestants had gathered there to bonour the 24.

#### Mandela arrives in Tokyo for 5-day visit third trip to Japan since 1990, TOKYO (R) - South Afri-can President Nelson Mandewill attend lunches hosted by

la arrived in Tokyo Sunday for an official five-day visit to meet Japanese government and business leaders. Japanese officials de-

scribed Mr. Mandela's visit as a "symbolic event" to mark a new era of bilateral relations. Mr. Mandela was expected to win renewed assurances of economic and political support from Tokyo, Japanese officials said.

Besides formal state functions, Mr. Mandela, on his

JOHANNESBURG (R) -

Four miners killed by a fire

about a mile (1.6 km) be-

neath the surface of a South

African gold mine died in a

failed hid to rescue two col-

leagues trapped behind a cur-

tain of smoke, officials said

Sunday.

business leaders in Tokyo. He will visit South Korea for three days after leaving Japan Thursday.

accompanied by Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel and Foreign Minister Empetor Akihito.

Diplomatie sources in Johannesburg said Mt. Man-

4 S. Africa miners die in failed rescue bid Four of the miners died after running back through thick smoke to warn col-

Fire fighting teams were still battling the bluze at Gen-"The heroism and the selfcor Ltd's St. Helena Mine near the free state town of Welkom and production at the shaft was at a standstill,

leagues turther down an incline at the pit's number two shaft. The men and the two store between 25 and 24 level, about 1,600 metres men they tried to save, were overcome as they tried to get (5.250 feet) underground at back above the smoke wall. the mine 250 kilometres

lessness of the... miners who ran back through the smoke to warn their tellow workers serves as an inspiring exam-ple to its all." Mineral and

cated that 45 per cent of

**Ouebec virters would support** 

soveteignts that entailed a

link with Canada. Forty-one

per cent said they would vote

Energy Aftairs Minister Pik Botha said in a statement. Andrew Davidson, spokesnian for Gencor's mining division Gengold, told Reuters the fire broke out in a disused

southwest of Johannesburg. Mr. Davidson said fout fire fighting teams were trying to seal off the blaze site in the shaft, which produced highgrade ore.

#### they said. Skirmishing over Quebec separatism clouds holiday

TORONTO (API — Canada celebrated its 128th birthday Saturday, but the holiday was clouded by the manoeuvrings of political foes girding for a referendum in Quebec that could pull the nation apart.

Parades, fireworks and concerts coast-to-coast commemorated the 1867 fusion of English-speaking colonies and French-speaking Quebec into the federation of Cana-

But an opinion poll released on the ese of Canada Day showed surging sentiment in Quebec in favour of sovereignty. It was the strongest signal vet that separatist leaders in the prosince might succeed when they hold a planned referendum on sovereignty sometime this fall.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien, attending the main Canada Day ceremony at the federal capital in Ottawa, insisted that most people in Quebec prefer remaining part of Canada. "I have no doubt in my

mind," he said. "I'm sure

there will be a great Canada Day a year from now, and Ouebeckers will be celebrating with us."
In Montreal, federalist supporters staged a Canada Day parade that doubled as

a show of opposition to a breakaway. Separatist leaders staved away from the ceremony, having chosen instead to participate in Ouebec's own provincial hulidas a week earlier. The separatist cause has improved in the polls since its chief proponents, the Parti Quebeeois and the Bloc

Quebecois, agreed last

month that they would prop-

ose a formal relationship with

Canada if soveteighty was obtained. Mr. Chretien, sisiting Montreal Friday, challenged the separatists to be clear

about their aims. "I just want them to be honest with people," Mr. Chretien said. They want to get divorced and remarned at the same time. The latest poll, published

in Montreal's La Presse, indi-

no and 14 per cent didn't know or wouldn't say. The polling tirm erop said the survey of 1,509 people had a margin of error of 2.5 "If the yes side wins, the

mense for all Canadians." the Montreal Gazette said in an editonal. "But even it the no sutes wins, this country cannot continue running its national affairs the way it has been For Canada to work hetter, it

has to be able to accommdate

consequences will be ini-

our differences in a more efficient way." The pro-sovereignty provincial government of the Parti Quebecos made a pitch for yes votes duting the week hy offering a \$10 hillion wind. fall to local governments if Quebec beenmes indepen-

Separatist leaders also have placed ails in the

Montreal suhway system and have set up a toll-fre telephone line that provide reassuring pre-recorded answers to questions about separation

Federalist supporters countered this week with newspaper ads attacking separatist referendum manogusting. "The question temains the

same: Do you want to sepa-tate from Canada" the ad said. "And the answer temains the same. No to Separation." In Ottawa, red-coated

mounted police and soldiers in bearskin hats joined in hilingual ceremonies outside parliament, opened with a -gun salute "This is the one day of the year we let out patriotism show, said Mr Chretien.

tendency toward modesty about their nation. "Don' let that fool you."
he said. "We know who we are. We know that Canada is the best country in the world.... vive le Canada...

referring to his compatitiots'

into her purse for an ID card, the newspaper said. Thai school wrong election

vine. he is said to have re-plied: "U you certainly are."

The prostitute kidded him by pretending to be a vice squad

police officer and reached

BANGKOK (R) — Teachers at a Thai primary school thought it would be a good idea to raise political awareness among their pupils by holding an election for a student hoard. The teachers were shocked to discover that, like many of the grownups running in Thailand's election Sunday, child candidales resorted to vole buying to ensure victory, using sweets instead of cash. "They did not know they were doing anything wrong; teacher Nittaya Klavikorn told The Nation newspaper. advertisements on TV but did not get the whole message," she said. Election watchdog been tampant in the run-up

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P) - The

protest the resumption of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific. The move was paralleled on the other side of

the Pacific island of New Caledonia (AFP photo)

#### Australia to launch anti- nuke campaign in France

CANBERRA (Agencies) — An Australian advertising agency said Sunday it planned an emotive campaign in France to protest against Paris' decision to resume nucar testing in the South Paci-

Saatchi and Saatchi Australia said it hoped its advertisements could run in French newspapers next week.

"We have produced three advertisements, one of which depicts a World War II tombstone, to remind the French people that Australians lost and risked their lives in that country to protect them from bombs such as this," said chief executive David Birrell.

"We are hoping to receive corporate and government support to be able to mount an effective campaign, target-ing the French people," Mr. Birrell said in a statement.

The Australian public reacted angrily to French President Jacques Chirac's decision last month to carry cut eight more underground tests at the Mururoa Atoll test site in French Polynesia.

France's consulate in Perth, western Australia was firebombed.

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakis-

tani paramilitary troops faced

stiff armed resistance Sunday

when they moved in to arrest

mattants of the ethnic Moba-

jir-Qaumi Movement

(MQM).

The Australian govern-

ment, which condemned the decision, has also frozen defence ties with France and cancelled most military ship and aircraft visits until the

testing finishes next May. The government also said it would discuss with others in the South Pacific the possibility of a joint regional publicity campaign in France.

Five thousand people marched in Paris to protest France's planned resumption of nuclear testing, hoping that this year's 50th anniversary of the atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima will galvanise further support for a global test ban.

Another 3,000 protested in New Caledonia, the French territory in the South Pacific. Under a searing sun, the protesters in Paris marched

along main streets on the right bank, carrying banners against the tests and shouting slogans, but maintaining order,

Mr. Chirac's announce: ment has prompted protests from anti-nuclear and environmental groups, as well as foreign governments, in particular New Zealand and Australia.

Other, smaller rallies were

operating in Karachi were

asked to switch off their sys-

tems to deny militants com-

munications facilities, an offi-

At least 1,000 troops and

police were taking part in the

operation and between 70

and 100 militants were be-

lieved to be fighting under a

dozen leaders, security offi-

The officials said the mili-

tants belonged to MQM,

which represents Urdu-

speaking migrants who came

to Pakistan from India after

the partition of the sub-

MQM is blamed by the

government for much of the

prolonged violence that has

claimed nearly 900 lives, in-

cluding 100 troops and

policemen, this year. Some 350 people died last month.

· The party accuses the gov-

ernment of curbing political and social rights of Urdu-

led by Banharn Silpa-Arcba,

likely to win over 90 seats in a

close race with Prime Minis-

ter Chuan Leekpai's Demo-

The Democrats were pro-

jected to finish second with

slightly fewer than 90 seats in

the 391-seat House of Repre-

The leader of the largest

crat Party.

continent in 1947.

cial said.

cials said.

Pakistani troops, Karachi militants clash

held in Mulhouse, eastern France, in Bordeaux and in the southern town of Belley, of which Defence Minister

Charles Millon is mayor. In Paris, marchers from the environmental group Greenpeace joined politicians representing ecology, the Socialist and Communist parties.

"We think that to be the best in the world, we have to show the rest of the world that we are a nuclear power. I think it's really stupid," de-monstrator David Boisseau told Associated press Televi-

"You don't test nuclear war," read a banner held up by the Union of Communist Students. "We are all Polynesians," read another.

"We'll be able to make Chirac backtrack," said Alain Krivine, a Trotskyist leader of the far left, adding that the anti-nuclear movement would gain momentum after summer vacation.

Meanwhile, environmentalists in French Polynesia Sunday prepared to take part in a fresh round of demonstrations in the capital, Papeete, to protest France's

The "symbolic action" the territory

In Orangi, the militant had put up barricades made

of furniture dragged ont from

bouses and with wreckage of

They also blocked the

streets with concrete-filled

drums and large concrete wa-

ter pipes, besides digging trenches up to six feet (1.83

metres) deep and erecting

all exits from the area were

scaled before launching the

operation which "will con-

"Normally, terrorists sur-

render when they are sur-

rounded. But they are stand-

ing ground. It's a pitched

battle even though we have pushed them back," another

Officials said the forces

had taken at least one mili-

tant, seizing a machine-gun

and a rocket-propelled gre-

The security forces were

coalition government with

Parties coming third and fourth, respectively, were the

Chart Pattana (National De-

velopment) Party and New

Aspiration Party, which are projected to win more than

The Bangkok-based

Palang Dharma Party led by

tinue until we get them."

A paramilitary officer said

burned vehicles.

makeshift bunkers.

official said.

nade launcher.

other parties.

50 seats each.

would mark the 29th anniversary of the first French atmospheric test in the Pacific on July 2, 1966, and would come after demonstrators blocked roads

into Papeete the third day

running Saturday.
A "peace fleet" made up of various Tahitian antinuclear and proindependence groups have said they will pursue their protest against the French decision until territorial govemment leader Gaston Flosse — a longtime friend of Mr. Chirac - replies to their demand for a referendum on

the new tests. Only pedestrians and emergency service vehicles have been allowed past barricades at the main eastern and western entrances to Papeete.

Petrol stations in Papeete are starting to run out of fuel and supermarket stocks are also running low. Tourists arriving at Faaa Airport are taken into the town by sea

French Polynesia officials have admitted surprise at the extent of the protests, but said there was no way a referendum could be held in:

The actual area besieged

by the forces was roughly one

square kilometre, but troops

also fanned out up to six

kilometres (four miles)

Orangi has a population of

about 600,000. Officials said

many people had fled their

homes because of fighting in

the area over the past few

The Orangi operation

appears to be the first phase

of a wider cleanup drive as

the government has vowed to

crush what it calls an in-

surgency by MQM with support from India to destabilise

The party denies the

allegation and says it is strug-

gling against large scale victi-misation and "genocide" of the Urdu-speaking commun-

ity by the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhut-

turned politician Thaksin Shi-

nawatra, who was contesting

his first election, was pro-jected to come fifth with

Mr. Chuan dissolved par-

liament in May after a land

reform scandal surrounding

the Democrats led to the

break-up of his five-party

more than 20 seats.

searches.

around it.

Pakistan.

prime minister and forms a a telecommunications tycoon

## Hopes fade for many missing in Seoul store collapse

SEOUL (AFP) — Hopes camped there, sleeping on that were already fading for the floot and others watched hundreds missing in the rubble of a collapsed shopping centre in Seoul, South Korea, receded further Sunday as the sole survivot tescued during the day died in hospital

soon after being brought out. Rescuers braved warnings of a new collapse to save 21-year-old woman shop assistant Lee Un-Yong who had lain crushed and pinned

under a concrete beam. Thousand watched live television coverage of the delicate five-hour operation to ease her out the debris of a basement supermarket and then grieved at the news of her death some two hours

Six bodies were found Sunday in the wreckage of the Sampoong Department Store as rescuers searched among rubble despite falls of masonry and fears of noxious fumes.

later.

Earlier in the day, relatives of the missing, furious about a four-hour break in rescue efforts for safety checks, fought with police guarding

"If you are scared, let us go in to rescue our families, shouted a young protester who tried to kick his way

through a police cordon. The rescue of the young woman was the first since a group of 24 elderly store cleaners were brought out alive Saturday evening. They had been entombed for 52 hours in a basement locker room, and were reported to have stayed alive by drinking their own urine.

In a nearby gymnasium Sunday, about 1,000 relatives put up wall posters with names and pictures of their missing families. Some portedly fled the huilding

television news.

"Searching fot my wife," read one poster. "Two brothers, 24 and 27" read another. Scores of them showed photos of young smiling shop girls.

Rescue work was repeatedly interrupted by fumes from smouldering underground fires and the risk of a new collapse in the ruins.

Yonhap Television news said several rescuers were slightly injured in a first attempt to rescue the young woman when an overhead concrete slab fell on them. As rain fell at dusk, televi-

sion reports put the number of missing at 340 and said it was feared the final death toll could nudge 400. Officials declined to con-

firm the reports, saying that 103 were confirmed dead and more than 900 injured. A final estimate of the total of victims was still not available. A French national and a

Taiwanese are among the missing, and a Japanese businessman and five Canadians of ethnic Korean origin were wounded, diplomats and news agencies said. Officials did not list their names.

Among those killed in the collapse, in a posh southern suburb of Seoul, were wives of chief executives of at least six South Korean business conglomerates. On Sunday, prosecutors

questioned a dozen govern-ment officials after arresting four people, including Sampoong owner, Lee Jun, and his son and store manager, on charges of manslaughter and

The son, Lee Han-Jo, re-

warning that it could collapse and ordering the staff to "cat-

ry on as normal." The Yonhap News Agency said the officials being ques-

tioned had reported no prob-

lem with the Sampoong store in a safety check conducted just two weeks before its collapse.

It was built in 1989 on a trash landfill on Seoul's affluent south side.



Rescue workers carry a woman, one of 24 cleaners who miraculously survived the collapse of Seoul's Sampoong Department Store entombed in a basement staff changing room for 52 hours. The 24, their bodies greased with oil, were slid through a tiny hole, their eyes bandaged against the unaccustomed light, to safety (AFP photo)

## Major confident of win; opponent fights on

LONDON (R) - British Prime Minister John Major showed growing confidence Sunday that he will win an election for leadership of his Conservative. Party and promised to unite its mem-bers behind him to fight for a new term in office:

But his challenger, former cabinet minister John Redwood, said the fight was not over, although an opinion poll showed Mt. Major's support was rising among Conservative members of parliament who will choose the party leader ·Tuesday.

"It is still a very open competition," Mr. Redwood told interviewer David Frost on BBC Television.

Despite Mr. Major's optimism, newspapers warned that he must win convincingly to avoid a knock on the door by the so-called "men in grey suits" — the Coservatives' powerful backroom grandees - asking him to step down in the interests

of the party.
The Observer, under the front-page headline "Major stares defeat in the face," said a swing of 25 MPs for or against him could decide his

"It is possible that Mr. Maior can win a majority but lose his leadership because he does not score the ringing vote of confidence that has to be required by a prime minis-

ter," the newspaper said. When former Premier Margaret Thatcher failed to win outright in a leadership ballot in 1990, her ministers and the party grandees persuaded her to stand down, opening the way for Mr. Ma-

Newspapers said Mr. Major was planning a snap cabinet reshuffle the day after the contest, to pre-empt a similar scenario. Mr. Major called the ballot

Muslim rebels on setting up

an autonomous region in the

southern Philippines to end a

decades-old separatist war.

Mr. Ramos told Muslim

and Christian politicians from

the troubled Mindanao re-

gion he hoped Congtess

would pass a law by next

March allowing the forma-

tion of a provisional auton-

He said Manila and the

mainstream Moro National

Liberation Front (MNLF)

still needed to negotiate some

contentious issues but be ex-

omous government.

for party leadership 10 days ago to end bitter party infighting about his policy towards the European Union but remained as prime minis-

His team went on the defensive Sunday, appearing almost non-stop on television and radio. Transport Secretary Brian Mawhinney told Sky Television: "We're looking at a clear-cut decision on Tuesday, a significant major-

Mr. Major's campaign was boosted by an opinion poll in the loyal Sunday Express which said 224 Conservative members of parliament would vote for the prime minister and only 60 for Mr. Redwood, with 45 absten-

But other newspapers were

less convinced. The pro-Conservative Sunday Telegraph said Mr. Major could fail to get the support of 80 to 140 MPs. putting his future

on a knife-edge. The 220 vote barrier is increasingly seen by MPs and commentators as the key psychological test of support for Mr. Major, even though under the leadership contest's rules he only needs the support of 165 MPs and a 50-vote margin over Mr.

British Premier John Major, who late last his reelection campaign headquarters in Lon-

month resigned as Conservative Party leader, don (AFP photo)

smiles as he emerges with his wife Norma from

Although only Mr. Redwood has declared his challenge, heavyweight cabinet contenders like Trade Secretary Michael Heseltine and right-wing Employment Secretary Michael Portillo are waiting in the wings.

Redwood to win.

They are expected to slug it out for the leadership if Tuesday's vote is inconclusive and the contest has to go to a second round.

Mr. Major, who would hand over the premiership only if he lost the ruling party's leadership, told Mr. Frost: "I think it will be very saustying for the Conserva-

tive Party to sort this thing out clearly, decisively on Tuesday."

In a veiled warning that failing to back him could end the Conservatives' 16-year grip on power, Mr. Major said: "At irs best, it (the Conservative Party) is the most formidable political fighting force in Western Europe.

"Let's put those internal agreements and squabbles o one side. In front of us is a general election."

The Conservatives do not need to call a general election until May 1997.

But speculation has been growing that right-wingers

who want a lougher line against further European integration could fatally split the party and force an early general election. It tooks likely that this would hand power to the opposition Labour Party which is 30 points ahead in opinion polls. Philippine leader sees peace with Muslim rebels

#### party traditionally becomes country showed Chart Thai, Fleeing Hutus urged to return to Bujumbura

BUJUMBURA (R) - Au- city, but local officials said thorities in Burundi are they expected to see people urging thousands of Hutus who fled the recent fighting in the capital to return to their homes in Bujumbura.

The projections based on

information from vote-

counting centres across the

Thailand.

But the returning residents must register individually with the authorities in the city — a move apparently designed to keep out the armed Hutu militias who have been accused of attacking units of the Tutsi-dominated Burundi

-Burundi Radio broadcast the calls for return late Saturday, after a rare day of calm Bujumbura, which for seeks has echoed with the sound of gunfire and grenade

On Sunday there was no sign of any significant movement of Hutus back into the returning to their homes

They said arrangements were in hand to register all people teturning, but would not comment on suggestions that this was a move to bar members of Hutu militias.

Tutsi Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo led festivines in the capital Saturday. marking 33 years of independence from Belgium. He warned that without peace in the country foreign powers might be tempted to intervene to sort out the ethnic mess which has led to the killing of thousands in the last

Mr. Nduwayo spoke at a ceremony in Bujumbura's

mainly attended by Tutsi members of his UPRONA party. Few Hutus were in the

UPRONA, the ruling party before the introduction of multi-party politics in 1993, is allied with the majority FRODEBU party, supported mainly by Hutus, in the government.

President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, a Hutu, took part in a separate Independence Day cetemony at Gitega, a region with a mainly Hutu population.

Bujumbura became a mainly Tutsi city as thousands of Hutus fled the capital into surrounding hills in the last few weeks following hit-and-run battles between Hutu militiamen and National Stadium which was the Burundi army.

On Friday, heavy shooting forced tens of thousands more of the displaced Hutus to flee deeper into the hills around Bujumbura.

Mr. Nduwayo, in a clear teference to last week's threat by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to support foreign military intervention in Burundi unless ethnic violence was brought to an end, appealed to his followers to promote peace.

The OAU warned at its annual summit last week that it could not afford a second Rwanda, where up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered last

pressed confidence over the Burundi has the same raoutcome. cial mix as neighbouring . "I am confident that... an Rwanda. enduring peace could well be

GENERAL SANTOS, Phi- at hand bere in Mindanao. lippines (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos said This in turn will lead to an outburst of economic growth... such as Mindanao Sunday he boped a deal has never seen," he said. would soon be reached with

Government and rebel panels are trying to reach agreement so the provisional government can be established before tegional elections next March.

Before this date of March, 1996, Congress hopefully shall be able to pass a ... (law) to implement the preliminary agreements in the negotiations with the MNLF," Mr. Ramos said.

After Congress has passed the law, a plebiscite is to be beld "and then we could bave a transitional mechanism in place towards a broader autonomous structure." he

Mr. Ramos was speaking

in the southern city of General Santos during his second trip to Mindanao in a month. He has been trying to persuade local politicians opposed to any MNLF ascendancy to support his peace

efforts. Officials have said the provisional government would bold office for about a year. Elections would then be held to select a regular regional parliament.

One proposal being studied by Manila and the MNLF is for the provisional government to be headed by MNLF Chairman Nut Misuari. He would be assisted hy Muslim and Christian deputies, rebel sources said.

More than 50,000 people have died since 1972 in the MNLF-led war in the region, regarded as the ancestral home of the country's five

million Muslim minority. The urgency of a peace agreement bas been bastened by the emergence of Muslim extremist groups opposed to peace talks, officials and rebels have said.

Fifty-three people, mostly Christians, were killed when armed men linked by the military to the radical Abu Sayyaf faction pillaged Ipil town last April.

The MNLF has split into several factions, with the Abu Sayyaf the most radical.

Meanwhile, a statement issued Sunday in the name of a Communist tebel death squad warned Philippine oil industry leaders and executives of foreign oil companies that they would be attacked if

they raised petrol prices.

Witnesses said at least one soldier and one policeman were killed in pitched battles which turned the western Orangi district into a war MQM causalties were not immediately known and a paramilitary officer said the militants might have removed their dead and injured before pulling back. The sound of heavy automatic gunfire echoed continuously after the security forces cordoned off Orangi to arrest assailants who Saturday attacked an armoured personnel carrier (APC), injuring an officer and two of Before the operation, mobile telephone companies n by asking bis fantasy 10 Opposition seen ahead in Thai poll projections BANGKOK (R) - Projections based on vote counts compiled by television stations showed the main position Chart Thai (Thai Nation) Party winning the most parliamentary seats in Sunday's general election in

for an 1D aper said. ) Ic ) -- Teacher

car pupils by ion for a stu-The teachers to discover of the growna Thailand's i, child candio vote buying story, using ng wrong. a newspaper. ti-vote-buying on TV but did ole message. ion watchdog buying has is the run-up

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### Codes encumber dreams

IT MUST be very difficult for the Arab League "committee of experts," which is currently meeting in Cairo, to achieve its stated aim and work out a code of honour to govern relations between Arab states. Rather than "honour," relations between Arab states in the past 40 years have unfortunately been driven by self-interest, power alliances and mutual suspicions. Thus, based on the experiences of the past four decades alone, we doubt that the Arab World can get its act egether on abstract concepts and any kind of moral codes on their own.

The age-old dream of the "Arab Nation," still very strong in the hearts of most Arabs, and the stated aim of many Arab leaders to "unite" that nation from the "Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf," has of course been a noble cause. But it has proved to be just :hat - a dream. Now, towards the end of the century and the start of a new millenninm, it seems that the Arab nation-states as mostly created by foreign powers at the beginning of this century are here to stay.

This is why perhaps we have to cast another shadow of doubt on the proposed code of honour. What we should be concentrating on instead is the need to work out a new model for relations between our countries. The European experiment is worth studying in this regard. But first and foremost the Arab states need to come up with new practical methods to end the era of mutnal fears, suspicions and mistrust. Boundaries have to be worked out, delineated and fixed. Claims and counter-claims must be settled. In effect a new definition for the Arab Nation, and ways of realising it, has to be devised. Perhaps the Cairo meeting of the "experts," or for that matter any different group, should look at the taks differently and come up with a declaration of a ome-type understanding. It is unfortunate that the Arab League itself is being crippled by its own charter and archaic ways of doing business. It also is unfortunate that neither the League nor its members would cooperate on institutional basis with Arab think-tanks and grassroot organisations, such as the Beirut-based Centre for Arab Unity Studies. That centre, to name only one, has produced

related to Arab integration or disintegration. It is most discouraging to think that we in the Arab World are not yet ready to tackle our problems in scientific and pragmatic ways. It is frightening to feel that we will not do so before we sink still deeper in the quagmire of our own differences and petty quarrels.

over the years a wealth of studies on matters

#### **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

A WRITER in Al Dustour daily said Sunday that the situation between Egypt and Sudan these days reflect the actual tension that prevails among other Arab countries. The leaderships in Cairo and Khartoum could for the time being avert military confrontation but who knows what nught happen in the future because the present enmity as displayed on the part of Sudan and Egypt towards each other has brought matters to a head, said Taher Al Adwan. Indeed, said the writer, relations among Arab countries since the Gulf crisis have been more restrained than ever before because Arab leaders failed to resort to reason and preferred hostile stands towards one another. The writer that the situation has deteriorated to such a degree that it became impossible for 10 out of more than 20 Arab leaders to meet under one roof to discuss serious questions besetting the Arab World. Any observer of the situation in the Arah World, continued the writer, can expect war to flare up between Syria and Iraq, between Egypt and Sudan and between Algeria and Morocco in view of the hostile stands these countries are displaying towards one another.

SABAH MADANI, a writer in Al Ra'i, discussed the question of rising prices of basic foodstuffs in Jordan. expressing solidarity with the limited and low income groups who are bearing the brunt. Citizens who could be classified as middle class are unable to buy their needs of fruits and vegetables while the low income groups and the needs feel that obtaining such commodities is a desire beyond reach due to soaring prices, said the writer. Wondering why the soaring cost of living hit Jordan, which used to appear as an oasis of stability, the writer said ordinary citizens whose income has not increased to a degree enabling them to buy their needs are appalled at the situation and are helpless. Help, he said, can only come from the Ministry of Supply, which is supposed to control prices and prevent any manipulations and profiteering on the part of the greedy merchants. It is unreasonable, added the writer, to see the ministry failing to do its duty and allowing the merchants a free hand in the local markets. said the writer who stressed the need for immediate intervention on the part of the concerned authorities to end the plight of the Jordanian citizens in general and the needy among them in particular.

#### **Human Rights File**

By Waleed Sa'di

## Criminals must be punished

ABOLISHIONISTS, MEANING those who are opposed to the death penalty, rest their case, inter alia, on the premise that people who commit crimes are not really responsible for their action. According to the thesis of the abolishionists, criminals are not self made criminals but are the products of their environment, be that social, economic or psychological. This is not to mention the genetic factor. which is that people who commit hemous crimes inherit the tendency to do so from their immediate and distant

This proposition, which attempts to exonerate offenders of the law from responsibility, has divided scientists and jurists alike. If it turns out to be true that whatever wrong we commit is not of our own making but the product of circumstances beyond our control, then the entire penal system is open to questioning.

Strangely enough, people who are opposed to capital unishment would have no qualms about the imprisonment of individuals committing offences on the theory that keeping them incarcerated and away from the public is away of protecting society from "ill people" without imposing a real punishment on them. In other words, for such a school of thought, the detention of criminals is not really a punishment but a method to protect society from people prone to perpetrating serious offences. According to the logic of this submission, imprisoned people must be rehabilated during their incarceration and made socially adapted to live according to the rules and regulations that civilised societies have articulated and adopted.

I personally do not buy this line of thinkine altogether: even though I understand the impact of environment and hereditary factors on human behaviour. It is scientifically proven that we inherit many genes that determine our behaviour. We are also affected by our environment in many ways. Still if we accept the proposition that man, unlike animals, is a thinking being capable of distinguishing right from wrong under even the most trying circumst ances, then "punishment" per se becomes part and parcel of man's environment that helps shape her or his judgement on law and order issues.

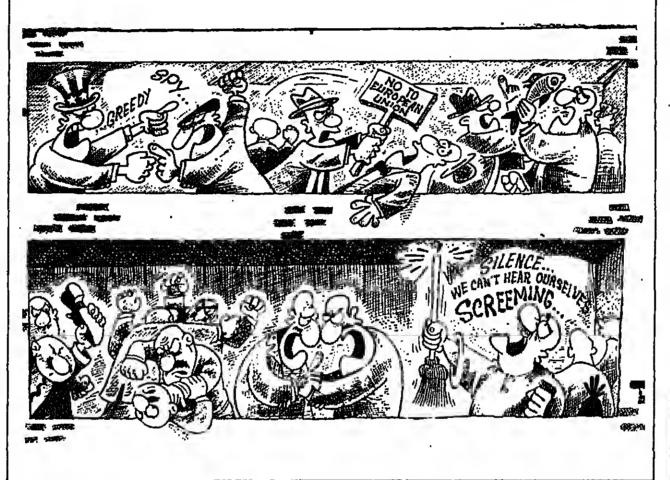
Understandably many psychologists dispute the validity of deterence that lies behind punishment. On the other

hand there are many social scientists and anthropologists who support this premise.

Let's take a simple example to illustrate this point. In countries where there is stiff punishment for traffic offenders, it was found that accidents on the streets and highways of such countries are considerably reduced. If, for example, we in Jordan begin to hand out heavy fines on drivers not heeding stop signs, we will in not time have this problem out of our system of driving and at the end reduce the primary causes of traffic violations to a bare minumum.

The same goes, for other offences, be they economic or social. If people who keep on murdering their sisters or wives in the name of honour stop being softly treated by our judicial system, there is no doubt in my mind that sooner than later people would think many times before they commit such crimes. If people who sexually attack children and murder them know that they will be apprehended at one stage or another and that there would be no escape from capital punishment. I must presume that such a group of people could be deterred from perpetrating

t some times wonder why, for example, crimes are on the rise in many industrial countries where there is a "soft" approach to crime. You cannot convince me that there is no correlation between this meek treatment of criminals and the rate of crime. I certainly do not have the full answer to this controversy about legal responsibility for erime. Criminologists have still a long way to go before they can fully understand crime and punishment. There is obviously a need for a continuing research into this vexing subject before man knows best how to deal with criminals. As for me the case has yet to be made against punishment as a deterrent. And when a man or a woman knowingly takes the life of an innocent person, then the appropriate punishment must be metted that would make others similarly poised to think about taking other lives. If we must deny society the duty to take the life of a criminal who commits cold blooded murder because that would be uncivilised, then we must find an effective way to convince killers not to take the lives of innocent people because that would he also an uncivilised behaviour.



## Palestinian refugees in Lebanon: Unwanted, uncounted

NO PALESTINIANS are as cruelly trapped as the refugees in Lebanon. Israel will not let them return to their homeland; Lebanon will not let them settle in their adopted country. Their life is harsh and growing harsher; their future entirely opaque.

Most of Lebanon's Palestinians come from Galilee or Israel's coastal cities, and are therefore unlikely to benefit from the modest repatriation schemes which concentrate on refugees who have relations in Gaza or the West Bank or who were displaced by the 1967 war. Meanwhile, opposition to Palestinian "implantation" s an issue that unites the disunited Lebanese. Rejection of implantation was written into the Tatf accords of 1989 which ended the civil war, thus implicitly blaming the Palestinians for the 15 years of

Wrapped up in their own ost-war anxieties, the Lehanese spare no thought for others. The fact that the Palestinians were once a relatively powerful group gives their fall a touch of nemesis. As a result of this public indifference, the government is free to do things that make living conditions for the Palestinians ever more untenable pushing them deliberately towards migration though they have nowhere to migrate to.

The most effective of these moves is the constraint on living space. Because the Palestinians are

excluded from all Lebanese public services and from most salaried jobs, they are uniquely dependent on the refugee camps which, through the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UN-RWA), provide free or lowrent housing and on-thespot social services.

Twelve of the original 17 camps have survived the war: No expansion at all is permitted. The Lebanese government has vetoed the creation of new camps, the reconstruction of camps that were destroyed in the fighting, and even any rebuilding, financed by UN-RWA inside the camps that still exist. Such space as remains is threatened by the rebuilding of Beirut: Shatila camp is likely to be engulfed in the expansion of the Sports City, wide highways stop just short of both Ain Hilweh and Bourj Barajneh.

The eviction of Palestinians, squatting in the city after being displaced from their camps by the war. began in late 1993 and continues discreetly, building by building. Evicted fami-lies may be paid indemnities of up to \$5,000, but this is not enough to buy them somewhere to live, even in camps where the veto on UNRWA reconstruction has produced a rash of illegal, speculative building. But once people receive an in-demnity, UNRWA crosses them off its list of homeless families. What happens to them then. They go from shanty-town to shantytown, the bulldozers fol-

lowing them.

Lebanon continues to reluse to extend civil rights to the Palestinians, in particular the right to work. This month around 2tt Palestinian doctors will go on trial for practising a profession limited to Lebanese members of the medical union. The authorities - and the ·Palestinians were better off when there was no central anthority - justify their actions with talk of the country's economic difficulties. an argument at odds with Lebanon's belief in the free market. Palestinians believe, with some justice. that the Lebanese are trying to force them out through poverty

But, in fact, the ereation of poverty is not increasing refugee emigration. More and more doors are closed to them. Since the end of the civil war, countries such as Germany, Denmark and Sweden have stopped giving avyltim to Palestinians from Lebanon. No Arab country except Libya allows them in Canada accepts only Palestinians with professional qualifications and or bank accounts. This underlines the point that it is precisely those relugees whom Lehanon would most ltke to get rid of - the poor, the under-qualified - who are least able to

entigrate. Since the statt of the Israeli-Pl.O peace process. international aid for Palestinian refugees has been skewed towards Gaza fless to the West Bank) and away from the refugees "outside." To make maiters worse, the decline in aid, both from the U.N.

and from relief agencies. has controlled with the phasing nut of the PLO as provider of jobs, pensions, scholarship, and medical services.

One peculiarity of the Palestinians' situation in Lebanon is how little is known about it. Even the size of the community is a matter of dispute: UN-RWA works on the assumption of 338,000 people, but that is the roughest of guides. There are few health statistics, despite a health-care crisis. Facts essential for the intelligent deployment of aid. the number of female-headed households, orphans and old people on their own. mortality rates, children of school-age out of school simply do not exist. This lack of knowledge discourages people who might otherwise have tried to do something to help.

Syria, which in the end takes the decisions about Lebanon, has given no indication of its position on the refugees. Some people believe that Syria is not opposed to reopening the Lebanese-Palestinian negotiations that have been frozen since the Israeli-Palestinian talks hegan. Others think that, with two hig issues looming — Leha-non's presidential election and Israeli-Syrian peace talks -- the Syrians will not allow anything to disturb stability in Lebation. The Synans may well prefer to keep the Palestinians as a card in their hands.

The Economist

## Iran, Iraq driven together by common foe

By Anwar Faruqi The Associated Press

NICOSIA - Seven years after their 1980-88 war, Iran and Iraq remain divided by a sea of differences. But Washington's efforts to isolate the gulf giants may be driving them closer

So far, the visible results are few. But the recent increase in high-profile meet-ings raises the specter of a reconciliation between the two countries that Washington considers most danger ous to its interests. Over the past few years

both have demonstrated their abilities to undermine U.S. interests - Iraq by threatening oil supplies with its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Iran by opposing the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace process.

They are among seven nations the U.S. government has officially labelled sponsors of international terrorism. In a recent dispatch. Iran's official Islamic Re-

public News Agency refer-

alliance as "a nightmare scenario" for the West. Some observers see Iran and Iraq's professed attempt at reconciliation as

little more than 3 warning to the United States. The main motivation for Iran's gesture toward Iraq is that Tehran is trying to highlight to Washington the dangers of pushing it too far," Vahe Petrossian, an Iran specialist with the London-based Middle East Economic Digest, said in a telephone interview.

Ever since the Clinton administration formulated its "dual containment" policy targeting Iran and Iraq nearly two years ago, the historic foes have professed a new desire to end their Last month President Bill

Clinton imposed a trade

embargo on Iran for

allegedly pursuing a covert nuclear weapons programme. Two weeks later Tehran dispatched an 11man delegation to Baghdad for talks on improving ties. Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati's top advis-

er, Ali Khorram, who led the team, reported "positive results" in talks on improving relations. The Iranian news agency has said that an Iraqi delegation is expected in

Tehran shortly, to be followed by a visit by Mr. Velayati to Baghdad. The Iran News daily, which is close to the Foreign Ministry, said in an editorial June 3 that U.S. pressure had left Iran and Iraq with little choice but

Officially, Iran maintains that the U.S. embargo has nothing to do with its cur-

"to opt for bettering rela-

rent quest for reconciliation

"Our negotiations predate the sanctions, and there is no doubt that our side is motivated by a genuine desire to improve relations." Saeed Rajaie Khorasani, a member of the Iranian parliament's foreign relations committee, said in a telephone interview from Tehran.

Iraq is suffering under U.N. sanctions imposed after it invaded Kuwait. It may be raising the possibility of a rapprochement with Iran to increase pressure on Washington, which opposes a lifting of the embargo.

From the point of view of the Iraqi regime, Bagh-dad has more to gain from tension with Iran than from a more relaxed stance, Laith . Kubba, a member of the Khoi Foundation, a London-based Iraqi opposition group, said in a tele-

He said Iraq's President Saddam Hussein was looking for a payoff from the United States and other Western countries as well as the Gulf Arab states in exchange for continued hostility towards revolutionary

In 1990, when the U.S.backed allied coalition massed on his border ready to drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait, Baghdad quickly pulled back 300,000 troops from Iranian territory, began exchanging prisoners of war, and resumed diplomatic ties.

Iran has not been unresponsive. Its government says sanctions against Iraq must be lifted immediately and has turned a blind eye to cross-border trade which undermines the U.N. embargo. Mr. Petrossian estimated the illegal trade at up to a \$2 million a year, Last year the United States accused Iran of helping Baghdad smuggle pet-roleum out of Iraq. Iran also has backed Iraq

in opposition to the U.N. backed "safe haven" created five years ago to pro-tect Iraq's 3.5 million Kurdish minority. But these shared interests

are dwarfed by the differences between the two neighbours.

Over the past five years the two have exchanged about 75,000 prisoners of war, but both claim thousands more remain. In addition. the Iranians want about \$1 trillion in war reparations from Iraq, which is keen to get back 115 military plans and 30 airliners it flew to Iran for safekeeping during the 1991 Gulf war.

There's also an unsettled border dispute over the Shatt Al Arab waterway which forms the two countries' southernmost boundary, and the issue of the outlawed opposition groups operating from each other's

### **LETTERS**

### **Facts distorted**

To the Editor:

tions

I AM writing to clarify a misleading Associated Press story reprinted in the June 18 edition of the Jordan Times. The story, under the heading "News in Brief," called "Study Blames Arab-Americans for bad relations," is distorted and in fact, an inaccurate portrayal of the findings of the study that was prepared by the Arab-American Institute.

The study did not try assignine blame for the violence in Cleveland's inner-city, which has claimed the lives of 12 Arab-Ametican merchants over the past two years. The study instead sought to delve into the origins of the phenomenon and discovered that the situation in Cleveland's inner-city is not unlike the problems that face other American inner-cities where different ethnic and immigrant groups are brought together by depressed economic conditions.

The study found that in this situation the strife was between Arab-Americans and African Americans although o could just as easily have been hetween Korean Americans and Hispanic-Americans The study offered subgestions to Cleveland city officials on how to improve community relations between the two groups. Included among these were the hiring of Arabic-speaking city employees, increased funding to municipal youth centres and sensitivity training for police and health inspectors. The study did not blame Arab-Americans or African-Americans, As I mentioned in the introduction to the study, there are two victim communities in this tragedy pitted by history, circumstances and economic forces-

James J. Zogby. President, Arab-American Institute, Washington.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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## \*Diplomacy seen | Hardliners plan next refuge, fearing Israel-Syria peace as inhospitable career for women By Anthony Goodman

Reuter

UNITED NATIONS -Although women have made advances in many fields in recent decades. diplomacy does not appear to be one of them, according to a U.N. re-

"Throughout its 50 years of history, the vast majority of the delegates selected by their national governments to represent their countries at United Nations bodies have been male," the report said.

"Women continue to be largely absent in the highest ranks of the permanent missions to the United Nations in New York," it

In 1989, when the world body had 159 members compared with 185 now. women accounted for 20 per cent of the diplomatic personnel of permanent missions. Fifty-seven of the delegations had no women on their diplomatic staff.

"As of January 1994, only seven mission out of 187 (including two observer missions) were headed by women. Among the 240 delegates holding ambassadorial rank, only 11 were women," added the report, titled "Participation of Women in Political Life and

Decision-Making." "Of the total diplomatic staff of missions, women represented only 22 per cent. In the permanent missions of 67 member states, there were no

"The figures reflect negligible increase since 1949, when women at the diplomatic level in permanent missions to the United Nations constituted 16 per cent of the total.'

Of the 49 presidents of the U.N. General Assembly elected since 1945, only two were women -Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit of India in 1953 and Angie Brooks of Liberia in 1969. Since the establishment

of the 15-judge International Court of Justice at the Hague in 1945 there has not been a single woman judge.

Among the numerous U.N. conferences held since 1945 and headed by appointed senior U.N. officials, only six were, headed by women, and four of those were world conferences on women.

Of the 89 executive heads of various organisations of the U.N. system elected or appointed by member states, there have been no women.

But four women have been confirmed by the U.N. General Assembly as heads of major U.N. programmes. They are Sadako Ogata of Japan, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees; Catherine Bertini of the United States, executive director of the World Food Programme; Elizabeth Dowdswell of Canada, executive director of the U.N. Environment Programme and Dr. Nafis Sadik of Pakistan, executive director of the

(PLO) are under no illusions about what a peace deal between Israel and Syria would mean for them: a move to another country.

The groups opposed to the Palestinians' peace process with Israel have spent much of their lives moving from one Arab capital to another and are already contemplating where they might go next if a peace deal is reached. After Damascus we will find another suitable, safe place," said Fathi Shakaki.

secretary general of Islamic

Jihad, one of the main

opposition groups, who in-

sisted a relocation would

inside Palestine because we send neither men nor weapons from Damascus. Our mujahedeen (fighters) are inside the border as well our weapons," he said. Mr. Shakaki, 44, is no

transitory and an accord be-

tween this country and Israel

would not affect our action

stranger to moving on. He was expelled from the Gaza Strip to Lebanon in 1988 and settled in Damascus a year later. Since then he has spent long periods in Libya, Lebanon and Algeria. His career with Islamic

Jihad, he said, began in 1979 when he was a medical stu-

DAMASCUS (AFP) — have no effect on anti-Israeli dent at Zagazig University in the Nile Delta, Egypt, and created the nucleus of the group with other Palestinian students.

> Mr. Shakaki, like many Palestinian activists in exile here, insists that help offered to the groups by Syria is not the key to their military operations and remains confident about the political future of the movements.

> The Palestinian Islamist movements have become a factor in the political equation of the Middle East that cannot be ignored," he said. "Our presence abroad is symbolic and our role is more to do with public relations."

Abu Mohammad Mustafa, the Damascus representative

group would also not beaffected militarily if it was forced to leave Syria. "That would not affect the heart of

our organisation in the West

Bank and Gaza," he said. Mr. Mustafa, a member of the Hamas political office, said his organisation's presence in Damascus was

already "very limited." The leader of another Palestinian faction said Hamas was already being careful about publicising its activities in the Syrian capit-

Trips to Dismascus by the president of the Hamas political office, Massa Abu Marzouk, are surrounded by the

of the Islamic Resistance greatest discretion," said the Movement (Hamas), said his activist, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Abn Marzonk paid a discreet visit to Damascus this week before going to Cairo on Wednesday for meetings with Egyptian leaders," he

Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), would also not rule ont an eventual departure from Damascus, although he too minimised the potential

"Syria provides us with logistical support. If it is maintained all the better, if it is withdrawn from us, that would not make a great deal of difference because it is a secondary issue," he said Between 1983 and 1993, relations between the DFLP and Damascus were frosty because the DFLP refused to support the split (recommended by Damascus at the time) within Yasser Arafat's Fateh movement," said Mr. Hawatmeh, who kept a second home in Algeria dur-

ing those years.

Abu Ali Mustafa, the deputy leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, also acknowledged that a peace treaty between Israel and Syria would have an impact on his movement's political activities in Damas-

"But there's a long way to go before any such agree-ment is reached," he said.

## A condiment 'worth its weight in gold'

By Rimal Cortbawi Special to the Jordan Times

FROM THE bosom of our Jordanian nature springs a condiment, which, to those informed of its diverse uses, is worth its weight in gold," according to biologist Khamis Bitar, owner of Systema Scientific Research

Those who heard about fenugreek, otherwise called "hilbeh," know for sure that it has both internal and external use for the body. "I have it in the morning because it is good for the kidneys," says housekeeper Hanneh Hijazeen, "I believe it nurtures the complexion," says lawyer Randa Zalatimo.

Yet, in spite of its numerous benefits, many individuals do not know of the existence of hilbeh. "I have never heard of it," says internist Ala' Toukan.

Though gaining signifi-cant recognition in folk medicine, especially amongst the older generations, "some therapeutic effects of hilbeb have only

given 100 per cent positive results with tests on animal models," says Munib Saket, professor of pharmaceutics and dean of pharmacy at the Applied Science University. But many of the benefits have stood the test of time and are "taken for granted," according to Mr. Bitar, by the numerous seekers of these nutritious plant seeds.

There are over 200 'attar' (perfume and herb vendors) in Jordan, and they all sell hilbeh," says Mr. Bitar. "We have between 15 and 17 thousand customers from all levels and classes of society, and they always come asking for fenugreek seeds or products containing them," he stressed.

Although indigenous to North Africa and India, fenugreek seeds are now cultivated in many European countries. As one of the oldest known medical plants, fenugreek was highly thought of by Hippocrates, said Dr. Saket.

The first most authentic references to hilbeh were

done hy Arab writers, and these go back; to the first few centuries A.D., Dr. Saket says. These publications give rough descriptions of the seed components, which were later confirmed and expanded on in. international pharmaceutical references, such as the British Pharmaceutical Codex and Martindale Extra Pharmacopoeia. "Among other useful chemicals, bilbeh contains 25 per cent, 6 per cent fat and is rich in vitamins and minerals," says Dr. Saket, Due to its various uses, he

9th century A.D. Medical uses of hilbeh include its action as a nutritive, laxative, digestive, throat soother and appetite booster, says Dr. Saket. Tests on animal models, he adds bave also proved fenugreek to be an antidiabetic substance that can also reduce blood levels of cholesterol and have shown that is aqueous extract can beal gastric ulcers, relax muscles and significantly in-

adds hilbeh was introduced

in Europe as early as the

hibit liver carcinoma. "It is also used in China to treat cancer of the cervix," Dr. Saket adds.

It has recently been mentioned in a Jerusalem Post report that hilbeh has been proved to lower levels of cholesterol and blood

Being also a flavouring, hilbeh is used by Indians in

As a nutrient, hilbeh proved to be excellent in

to the body." Patients are advised to have hilbeh during their post-operative convalescence period," says Dr. Saket. "Drinking aqueous hilheh extract sweetened with honey every morning gives me and my wife our supply of energy to start our day's work,'

making curry powder, according to Dr. Saket.

Topical effects of hilbeb involve its use as an emollient and as treatment for cellulitis and certain unpleasant skin diseases. It has an almost spontaneous effect in poultice to treat boils, says Dr. Saket, and is particularly useful in relieving chill pains in the winter.

"In addition, hilbeh is particularly good in activatin women and is justifiably believed to act as an aphrodisiac in men," Dr. Saket

giving strength and energy

there should be no testric-

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change with time and cir-

in favour of giving em-ployers the right to reduce

working hours and days but

limited working hours to a maximum of 48 per week

The House finally voted

says Mr. Bitar. Hilbeh has no side effects whatsoever, according to Mr.-Bitar. "How can anyone go wrong with hilbeh

when its sole disadvantage is its distinctive smell that normally engulfs the body (as responsible constituents are carried ont with perspiration) and which is not unpleasant to all?" asks Mr. Bitar. Some people even like the smell of hilbeh, Mr. Bitar adds.

In France, be says, 80 per cent of the people use herbal oils for more than 90 per cent of illnesses.

"My wife prepares a cream from hilbeh and I use it daily, which is why hardly anyone believes that I am 70 years old," says Mr.

As well as clearing the blood, hilbeh cleans, nourishes, moisturises and protects the skin.

"Truly, drinking . hilbeh extract on daily basis can protect the body from many diseases," says Mr. Bitar. This is why we decided to make hilbeh biscuits as part of our range of natural pro-

ducts," he added. Generally, hilbeh's versa-tility is witnessed in the different ways it can be treated. "Hilbeb can be powdered, soaked or boiled with water or used to make desserts, according to Mr.

In Syria and Egypt, hil-beh is cultivated and used in great amounts, according to Dr. Saket. The feougreek seeds are cultivated in the north of Jordan, and their flowering time comes around March or April.

"Luckily we have good quality hilbeh, and it is available in such satisfactory abundance as to enable us to make the best use of this extraordinary gift of nature," says Mr. Bitar.

## Egypt warns Tourabi

(Continued from page 1)

the plot to kill as "all lies and fabrication." The revolution will not retreat from its course of Islam and peace," Gen. Bashir told thonsands gathered in a conference hall.

They will not be able to harder our march.' Sudanese leaders sounded a common theme Sunday, calling Egypt's charges part of a Western plot to undermine the Islamic regime. Sudan has poor relations with most of its neighbours, particularly Egypt and Eritrea. which accuse it of training militants. The United States says Sudan is among states

supporting terrorism. "Sudan is the lightening torch of Islam in the region and they want to extinguish this light," Sudan's culture and information minister. Abdul Basit Sabdarat, told

the Associated Press. He said Sudan still feared an Egyptian attack despite public statements to the contrary and promised that Sudanese are "ready to sacrifice our blood to protect our land and honour."

War with Egypt was always

nnlikely, and Egypt's

440,000-strong army greatly outclasses its Sudanese counterpart. But hoth countries have sought to use the dispute to rally flagging support.
Egyptian Information
Clinister Safwat Al Sherif
warned Sudan it "should
understand that all options are open to President Muharak and they are limitless in the face of any act or procedure that threatens Egyptian

the feelings of Egyptians." He added that Sudanese "should stop heating the drums of war and stop issuing empty threats to cover up the

national security or provokes

crime they committed." A Sudanese vendor summed up fears that the dispute could get out of hand, leading to a standoff in which neither

backs down. "People are afraid that both regimes might find it useful for their own selfish purposes to go to war if that will serve their interests," Awad Razouq said in a downtown Khartoum mar-

Iraq, an ally of Sudan, also joined the fray on Sunday. An Iraqi government ses-sion, chaired by President Anddam Hussein, called on the Egyptian people not to let their leaders use Egypt's military as "a big stick" against Sudan, Iraqi media reported Sunday, quoting a government spokesman.

Meanwhile in Jeddah, the secretary general of the Organisation of the Islamic

U.N. Population Fund.

between the two countries. The Islamie Press Agency said Sunday that Hamid Algabid met with the Egyptian ambassador Fethi Shedlil and Sudanese Consul Ibra-

bim Kabbasbi. gave them messages for their heads of state proposing to act as a mediator "betweeo these two member countries of the OIC" and urging them to "contain tension which threaten the future of their relations.'

A top-level Yemeni advisor arrived in Cairo meanwhile to discuss his country's reported links to the attempt to kill President Mubarak.

"We will try to explain this to our Egyptian hrothers," Mohammad Salim Bassandwa, told journalists at the start of a two-day visit. He is an advisor to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

"We are concerned to the greatest possible extent with this matter and will provide the Egyptians with the necessary information to help them and prove that we are as concerned as they are for

their security," he said. Sanaa has denied reports that Mohammad Siraj, thought to be the mastermind of the failed amhush in Addis Ababa, held a Yemeni pass-

The Ethiopian press reported after Monday's attack that Siraj held dual Saudi and Yemeni nationality. Egypt said Siraj was Sudanese and had been arrested in Addis Ahaha. Ethiopian police have denied the arrest.

"Yemen is against terrorism and violence of any kind and will not permit anyone to export terrorism to any other country," Mr. Bassandwa

Mr. Musa has announced he will visit Yemen on Monday with a letter from Mr. Mubarak to Mr. Saleh. He would meet with "high officials" to discuss "relations

between Egypt and Yemen" and the "development in the situation in the Arab World." In another development, a Sudanese minister said he had met ambassadors from four member nations of the U.N. Security Council and asked them to pressure Egypt

to stop its "aggressions" in Ghazi Salaheddin Atabani, minister of state for foreign affairs, told the state news agency SUNA he met separately with the ambassadors of Britain, China, France and Russia in Khartoum.

Mr. Atabani said be asked them to "exercise their international responsibilities to halt Egyptian aggressions of all forms against Sudan."

On Saturday Sudan made a Conference (OIC) to intervene personally in the crisis complaint to the U.N. Secur-Nations to intervene.

Wednesday.

and two policemen. Egypt has acknowledged the death of the two police-

plained of Egyptain support for opposition groups aiming

mercenary activities and subversive operations on in-

arrangements. Redeploy-

ment would start four weeks

after an agreement was

signed. This first phase would

be completed 21 days before

PLO officials said Israel

had agreed to pull hack from

major towns although

Ramallah and Bethlehem,

both near Jerusalem, would

not be handed over fully until

the completion of hy-pass

Mr. Peres said the talks

were very complicated for

both sides and he said "some

gaps"-remained. He refused

to speculate when an agree-

will make absolutely no con-

"I can only state that we

ment would be signed.

Palestinian elections.

roads for settlers.

ity Council accusing Egypt of attacking Sudanese troops in Halaib and asked the United Khartoum said the clashes broke out on Tuesday and

Mr. Atabani told the ambassadors that Egypt "initiated the military escalation in Halaib and killed three Sudanese," an army officer

men hut not the officer, and says the Sudanese started the shooting in the desert border region which Egypt controls Mr. Atahani also com-

to overthrow the government in Khartoum.
Cairo is "encouraging through the media political

stallations and eivilians which should be denounced by the standards of justice condemning terrorism," he

He underlined to the diplomats Sudan's desire "not to escalate the situation militarily or politically and to resort to reason and not passion' but warned that his country would defend itself "no matter bow dear the sacrifice."

He dismissed Cairo's

allegations that the Suc initiated the clashes as "illo-"Egyptian forces in Halaib are eight to ten times the Sudanese, who are mostly policemen. Moreover, Sudan is fighting a war against rebels in the south and so

would not consider opening a new front in the north," he

He recalled that in April 1992 Egypt killed two Sudanese soldiers at the Ahu Ramad post in Halaih, saying: "Despite that, Sudan has exercised patience and self-restraint and even proposed mechanisms for dialogue" to solve the dispute.

cessions on issues relating to

security," he told Israel's

Mr. Arafat would say only

that he had held "very de-

tailed talks" with Mr. Peres

A U.S. official, who re-

fused to he identified, said

the Clinton administration

wanted to host an Israel-PLO

signing ceremony in

U.S. administration) are aim-

ing for ... the objective is to

hold the end of the negotia-

tions in Washington, to final-

ise the last detail and then to

hold the ceremony." the offi-

'That is the date they (the

Washington on July 17.

"all the issues."

army radio.

PLO, Israel to launch fresh bid for deal

(Continued from page 1)

House votes (Continued from page 12)

work. He also said that working on two shifts means that employers bave to provide transportation

and food for employees. "And the transportation system bere is not reliable, especially for women who cannot go back home late,"

#### and working days to six per Deputy Taher Masri said Chechen talks snagged

(Coatinned from page 12)

osal wherehy Chechenya would retain a form of sovereignty within the Russian Federation. a degree of autonomy which falls well short of Chechen demands'

for independence. Earlier Sunday signs that the peace process might he huckling were detectable when Chechen commander Aslam Maskhadov arrived without the promised proof that Chechen forces were respecting a disarmament agreement signed shortly after the start of the talks two

weeks ago. Mr. Maskhadov had pledged he would return Sunday with armoured vehicles and artillery pieces as a sign disarmament was proceed-ing, and his empty-handed return may have been due to rumours in the Chechen camp that Russian forces were con-

tinuing to violate a ceasefire. Both sides have accused each other of hreaking the truce since it was concluded June 20 here, but in a positive development Sunday, the handful of Chechen fighters in the rebel hastion of Bamut signalled they may be willing to throw down their guns and join the peace process.

The 20 or so separatists had said earlier they would fight to the death if neces-

In Moscow meanwhile.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin remained upbeat Sunday about the prospects for peace, and said he could join talks at some

stage.
"My participation is planned." Mr. Chernomyrdin. who said Saturday he would not join the talks, was quoted hy Interfax as saying. "Where and when will depend on the development of

However, Mr. Chernomyrdin added he would not sit at the same negotiating table as Mr. Dudayev.

Talks will resume Monday, an OSCE respresentative

### Serbs shell Sarajevo

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Bildt told reporters the situation was "more complex, more complicated... than it has been for years." Asked about the likelihood

of talks, Mr. Bildt replied: 'It is possibles, but it is not Mr. Bildt, a former Swedish prime minister, arrived unexpectedly in Belgrade the EU last week to resume

contact with all parties to the conflict in a bid to relaunch the faltering peace process. He held talks with Serb President Slobodan Milosevic

prior to his meeting Sunday with Mr. Tudjman. Together with U.N. nego-

Mr. Bildt is due Monday to travel to Knin, which the Croatian Serbs claim as their

The mediators are also due

headquarters.

to travel to Tuzia, northeastern Bosnia, where the northern contingent of U.N. peacekeepers is based, before returning to Geneva. During his first peace mis-on, Mr. Bildt travelled to

Sarajevo, Belgrade and Zagreb but not to Pale, the Bosnian Serb stronghold. Questioned about a visit to Pale, Mr. Bildt said only, "we are going to take the

appropriate steps." Such a visit, he said, was "not scheduled, not ex-

#### tiator Thorvald Stoltenberg. cluded." Prisoners relaunch strike

to Mr. Arafat when the two police in Jerusalem on Sun-

met Saturday, the radio said. The radio said the 1,500 prisoners slated for release were from the PLO-ruled Gaza Strip and West Bank enclave of Jericho as well as the town of Jenin, the next to

come under PLO rule. Israeli demonstrators protesting against any Israeli troop redeployment in the

(Continued from page 1)

day, witnesses said. Around 300 Israelis, mostly residents of "green line" communities that border the West Bank, gathered outside the prime minister's office as government ministers held

inside the building. Police prevented protesters from entering the government compound by force.



مدرسة مادبا للقسيفساء

MADABA MOSAIC SCHOOL مشروع التعاون الإردني الإبطالي TALY JORDAN COOPERATION PROJECT

The Madaba Mosaic School announces the acceptance of male/female students applicants for

the academic year 1995-96 with these prerequisites:

Students age must not exceed 18 years

Students must hold a Jordanian citizenship Students must have successfully completed tenth grade in the academic year 1994-95 with an average no less than 75 %

selected for the next academic year based on various guidelines. The Madaba Mosaic School is a public school which provides a three year training programme in the field of ancient mosaic restoration and modern mosaic production. The school issues a tawjihi degree

All applicants who have the above requisites will be interviewed and fifteen students will be

For more information call MMS tel.: 08-540723

Applications can be obtained from the:

- Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities (front desk)

- Italian Embassy (Cultural Department) - Madaba Mosaic School

Applications deadline is July, 20 1995.

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## **CBJ** offers incentives to merging banks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a bid to reduce the number of commercial banks and preempt a possible run on capital in the market, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) is offering a series of incentives to commercial banks to merge, officials and bankers said Sunday. The incentives, which in-

clude lower interest rates on CBJ loans and higher yield on deposits with the central bank, come in line with CBJ Governor Mohammad Nabulsi's efforts to establish a stronger banking base in the country ahead of expected economic changes in a state of regional peace.

In January this year, the CBJ instructed the nearly 20 Jordanian commercial banks to raise their capital to JD 20 million before the end of 1996. The present capital requirement, which dates back to more than 10 years, is JD 5 million.

Some of the banks are already near the higher requirements, but there are a few smaller banks which might find it difficult to raise funds from the market, and the CBJ incentives target them, officials explained.

However, it is not yet clear bow many banks would take up the offer, banking circles say

"Some of the smaller banks are like family-run businesses and whoever controls them is unlikely to let go in a hurry." said a senior executive at an international bank in Jordan.

"The market also saw some moves in recent months that indicated some of the larger banks were trying take-overs, and this has led some of the smaller ones to accelerate their moves to raise capital," added the executive.

The CBJ, which has the final say in determing when the banks should go to the market for capital since it has to approve the move, will not allow all the banks to seek capital at the same time, Dr. Nabulsi said in a recent interview with the Jordan Times.

Some of the banks have already moved to raise capital in phases before the 1996 deadline with CBJ approval and others are studying various options.

Brokers at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) say that any rush by banks to seek capital from the stock exchange would have a serious depressing effect on share prices and assert that up to JD 300 million would be drawn away from the market, albeit tempor-

But Dr. Nabulsi has rejected the assertion and said that the amount involved would not be more than JD 150 million.

He pointed out that many of the banks have voluntary reserves which could be converted to capital without tapping the market. Furthermore, the CBJ would also allow "good and sound" international banks to enter partnerships with local banks and provide the

The main reason behind the move to raise the capital is not any weakness on the part of Jordanian banks but to ensure that they achieve a level of strength that will enable them to handle highvolume financing and re-lated dealings that are expected in the region in the wake of breakthroughs in the Middle East peace pro-

### APEC economies to slow down, Japan recession unlikely — expert

SINGAPORE (AFP) -Economic growth among most Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum members is expected to slow down in 1995 and 1996, but Japan is unlikely to go into recession, a regional expert said here.

moderate economic performance across the board," Malcolm Dowling, assistant chief economist of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), told an APEC experts' meeting.

Average growth among the APEC members is expected to slow down to 3.1 per cent through 1996, compared to 3.6 per cent in 1994 and 2.8 per cent the year before, Mr.

Americas were forecast to

The U.S. economy grew at a

2.7 per cent annual rate in the

first quarter of 1995, accord-

ing to final report figures the

Commerce Department re-

Analysts bad been expect-

mg the 2.7 per cent rate

which was unchanged from

the initial government esti-

mates for gross domestic pro-

register 2.9 per cent growth in 1995-96, from four per cent last year, while developing Asian countries would enjoy eight per cent expansion, down from g.9 per cent.

APEC includes Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia. Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

Mr. Dowling noted that there was concern that the yen's appreciation "is having an adverse impact on the performance of the Japanese economy, perhaps sufficient to tip the country into another recession."

This would have a negative impact on the rest of APEC.

Mr. Dowling, however, was confident the Japan would undergo "continued slow growth but no recession in 1995, and we are guardedly optimistic regarding prospects for 1996.

We believe that the continuing structural adjustments which Japan is undertaking will provide some additional stimulus to its neighbours through increased flows of (foreign direct investment)," he said.

> Further offshore movements would improve the financial performance of Japanese multinationals over the medium term, but bad debts in the banking system and low stock and land values would "inhibit more vigorous lending needed to fuel a more rapid economic recovery."

## Lebanon mulls tax increases to meet pay demands

BEIRUT (R) - The Lebanese government is studying an increase in taxes on luxury goods to finance a proposed pay rise for public sector employees, Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri was

quoted on Sunday as saying. He said the government. which is battling a buge budget deficit, would not increase wages "before securing the necessary revenue to

cover this increase. The announcement follows a warning by acting Finance Minister Fouad Siniora that the deficit is forcing the government to choose between draconian new taxes or cutting back on post-civil war

Newspapers say the government is considering increasing taxes on items like cigars, alcoholic drinks, luxury cars and home electrical

Mr. Hariri, quoted by several newspapers, said the government was holding weekend meetings to discuss the issue.

It is partly spurred by pressure from Lebanon's 70,000 schoolteachers, who are threatening to refuse to correct year-end examinations if their demand for a 20 per cent pay rise is not met.

The coordinating commit-ice of Lebanon's Labour Unions warned last week that continual erosion of buying power threatened a social explosion unless living stan-dards of the lower-paid could

to a 20 per cent pay rise. The schoolteachers, who have twice been on strike since April, have a montbly starting salary of 555,000

be improved. It said all public

sector employees had a right

Lebanese pounds (\$341). They say their pay and status have plunged as a result of the 1975-90 civil war and their claim would cost the government 163 billion

pounds (\$100 million). Governmental and other sources put the cost at 500 billion pounds (\$307 millioti).

Financial sources say government spending is already outrunning the 44 per cent deficit of income against expenditure approved by parliament when it voted a 5.630 billion pounds (\$3.4 billion) budget for 1995.

Last year the final budget deficit reached 57 per cent, and some bankers say the current pace of expenditure is bigher.

Mr. Siniora told a Financial Times conference last

month that the budget suffered a structural problem caused by a high proportion of fixed payments on debt servicing, public sector wages, social security and

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"We are faced with a dilemma because in order to pay for these fixed obligations we either need to impose draconian tax measures which would choke completely the economy or we need to slasb dramatically investment expenditure, which in turn would substantially reduce our future growth potential,"

#### UAE to pursue austerity measures to cut deficit and restoring balance to the

ABU DHABI (AFP) -- The United Arab Emirates (UAE), a key OPEC oil producer, will pursue austerity measures to tackle a budget deficit after previous spending cuts nearly eliminated the

shortfall, a minister said Sun-

The country's 24 federal ministries and departments have been asked to exercise another year of restraint on the grounds that the budget is still heavily reliant on volatile oil earnings, newspapers re-

In a letter, Finance and Industry Minister Sheikh Hamdan Ibn Rashid Al Maktum asked government departments not to exceed the 1995 allocations in their 1996 budget and put curbs on new development projects.

"You must consider tight-

ening expenditure compared with that in 1995 and excludhe said in the letter, published in the press.

"No new projects will be included in the 1996 budget for any party unless it has completed at least 80 per cent of its existing projects.

Finance and Industry Ministry sources said spending cuts through the year had proved successful in tackling the UAE's federal budget deficit in the past few years despite sharp fluctuations in world oil prices.

They said such cuts, coupled with attempts to boost non-oil earnings, were needed to avert resorting to borrowing or imposing income taxes.

"The UAE has made clear it has no intention to impose

income taxes or issue bonds to finance the shortfall." one source said. "We have determined that the best remedy is to trim actual spending and develop non-oil income."

Central Bank figures showed spending cuts slashed the projected 1994 budget deficit of around 1.4 billion dirhams (\$3g1 million) to only 15 million dirhams (\$4.08 million) and a 1993 shortfall of 1.7 billion dirhams (\$463 million) to 23.9 million dirhams (\$6.51

In 1992, a deficit of around 1.45 hillion dirhams (\$395 million) turned into a surplus of 201 million dirhams (\$56.4

The UAE, which produces around 2.16 million harrels per day (b/d) of oil, started to suffer from a budget deficit in prices began to fall after peaking in the early part of the decade. The decline has forced

the mid 1980s, when crude

other Gulf oil producers to introduce austerity measures and economic reforms to tackle the deficit. But unlike the UAE, most of them have opted for domestic borrowing to shore up the deficit. "Our economy remains

vulnerable to world economic changes due to instability in oil prices. So, we expect revenues in 1996 to be within the limits of the estimated revenues for 1995," Sheikh Hamdan said.

"Oil earnings will remain the main source of financing the budget. Any improvement in prices next year must be utilised in meeting the financial obligations to others federal budget. In theory, the UAE federal budget is financed by half the

income of each of the counrry's seven emirates. But in practice, more than 80 per cent is contributed by the maın oil producer Abu Dhabi and the rest by Dubai.

The 1995 federal expenditure was put at 17.94 billion dirhams (\$4.88 billion) and revenues at around 16.9 billion dirhams (\$4.6 billion). leaving a deficit of \$380 mil-

But non-oil income, mainly from overseas investment and newly-introduced fees on government services, was projected to rise to 4.05 billion dirhams (\$1.J hillion) (rom 3.2 billion dirhams (\$871 million) in 1994. This compares with less than \$200 million in mid 1980s.

## Arab markets unaffected by political upheaval

DUBAI (R) — A string of key political events bad little impact on Arab stock markets last week, with most ending little changed on lowvolume summer dealings.

Share prices on Qatar's unofficial market were unaffected by Tuesday's palace coup, which saw Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad oust his father the Emir Sheikh Khalifa.

Dealers said trade was thin as big players left for summer holidays, but prices rose as demand from small investors continued. Al Ahli Bank rose five riyals to 206 riyals.

An assassination attempt

on President Hosni Mubarak and the subsequent rise in tensions between Egypt and Sudan failed to impress the Cairo market. Dealers said seasonal sales of Egyptian shares led the share index to slip less than one point to a nine-month low.

In Bahrain, the formation of a new government left shares largely unscathed. The index dipped 4.82 points to 1.286.66. Kuwait was one of few

Arab markets which gained in the week.

In active dealings the stock index rose 44 points to 1,065 points. Volumes surged 60 per cent to 19g million Overall demand was

buoyed by the unexpectedly high price realised by the government at the auction of most of its stake in National Industries Co. (NIC) to private investors, NIC's share price jumped 43 per cent in the week to 830 fils.

Support also came from the enthusiastic response to the state's sale of 90 million shares of National Real Estate Co. The offer was 39 times oversubscribed, brokers said.

Al Ahli Bank gained 25 fils, or nine per cent, to 295 fils. Mobile telecommunications jumped to 820 fils from

In Saudi Arabia, the index partly reversed the previous week's gains to end two per cent down at 129,89 poiots. Volumes slumped 45 per cent. after soaring 54.7 per cent the week before, Good demand boosted

Al Ain Al Ahlia insurance shares rose 20 dirhams to a

shares but trade was other-

wise thin as potential sellers

held onto their stocks in the

hope of further price rises.

record 1,000 dirhams. Al Dbafra insurance rose 15 dirhams to 630.

#### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JULY 3, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Early today handle collections and payments, and then you can look into new interests which appeal to you. Budget your money carefully.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Early today come to a fine agreement with your partners and later tonight you can handle them

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) There are many tasks ahead of you today, and you should handle them wisely. Impress fellow associates

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan just how to get your talents working more profitably and then get right into the assignments required thereon. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This morning is fine for completing home problems, so pitch in early. This evening you can enjoy

entertainment with good friends.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can communicate well this morning with many benefits accruing, and later tonight the same

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) It is important to study what your financial status is today and plan to improve it. Sci up necessary SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Early today go after your

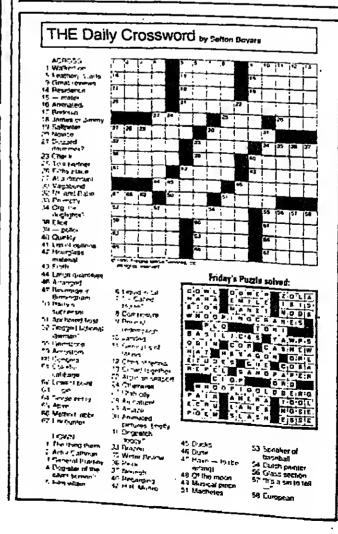
personal aims and later ionight you can handle business affairs very nicely. Be happy. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be clever in going after personal goals during the day today, and try not to criticise

another person CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Plan how to gain those wishes which mean much to you and then carry through in a positive

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Early this morning attend to some important matter, and later today you can go after your most personal goals. Be with good friends.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You made a fine plan for the new week and this is the day to get started on it and get good results.

Birthstone of July: Ruby - Tiger's Eve



"The outlook for 1995 and

1996 is for somewhat more

Dowling said in a paper.

APEC members in the

U.S. economy grows at 2.7% for first quarter

WASHINGTON (AFP) — duct. quarter, which ended Friday. will have even lower figures. possibly even showing that the economy shrank. They did not, bowever, predict a recession, and many point to a modest recovery by the

year's end. The first-quarter figure was

Experts said the second growth charted in the pre- range. rious quarter. Fourth-quarter 1994 figures came in at 5.1

The GDP increased \$36.3 billion at an annual rate from January through March. It bad increased \$66.8 billion for the last three months of

Inflation was slightly up.

barely more than half the but within the moderate sumer spending was weaker sion will determine if the Fed

The GDP 4.1 per cent in 1994 turning in the strongest growth in 10 years. The firstquarter slowdown of this year was the weakest showing since the third quarter of 1993 when it also hit 2.7 per

The figures showed con-

but higher net exports and business investment in durable goods offset the lower

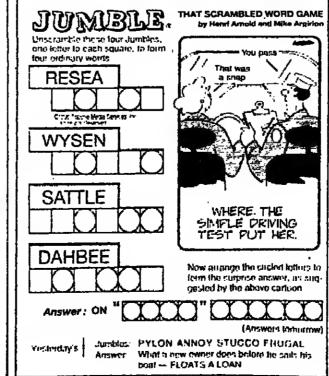
The mixed figures come ahead of Wednesday's meeting of the Federal Reserve board Federal Open Market Committee meeting. The ses-

than previously predicted, is going to lower key interest rates or hold them. The financial markets.

which have been on an upward spiral recently, dropped back Thursday on reports of new economic strength which caused investor concern that the Fed would not cut interest rates.

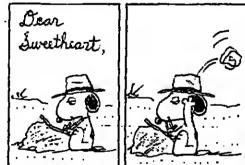


"See how that star twinkles at that other star? That's how I'd like you to twinkle at me!"



#### **Peanuts**

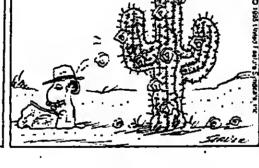
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revenues to rise by 50%'

ordan's revenues in the tourism sector this year are expected to increase by 50 per cent, compared to previous year. Jordanian businessman Ziad Innab said, Mr. Innab, who is the chairman of the board of directors of the company owning InterContioental Hotel, said

hotel occupancy rates until Just month were around 90 per cent. He said occupancy rates in five-star hotels currently stand at 70 per cent. He said that the recovery witnessed in the tourism sector has prompted investors to found new hotels and other tourism establishments. He said his company was currently working on expanding and modernising the hotel by increasing investments by \$12-13 million. This process, he noted, will increase the number of hotel rooms by 120, bringing the total number of tooms to 470 (Al Aswaq).

\*\* THE MINISTRY of Public Works and Housing will within the coming two weeks, refet a tendet to expand the 72-kilometre, twolane Ras Al Nagab road into a four-lane road, according to Director of the ministry's roads department Móh-ammad Ensour. Mr. Ensour said the JD 34 million project will be financed hy the World Bank, the Puropean Investment Bank and the Jordanian Treasury (Al Ra'i) -

\*\* PRIME MINISTER Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said the government still owns 10,200 shares in the Cairo-Amman Bank. The statement was made by Sharif Zeid in answer to a query by Lower House of Parliament member Fawwaz Zu'bi (Al Aswaq).

\*\* MINISTER OF Finance Basel Jardaneb has recommended that the Council of Ministers exempt confectionary stores from paying sales tax. The exemption will be included in an amendment to the sales tax law which will be discussed soon by the Lower House of Parliament. The House will debate raising the tax from a current seven per cent to 10 per cent. resident of the Restaurant Owners Association Yassin Akash said it was unfair to charge taxes on sweets and noted that this might lead to reducing the volume of sales. He said that in spite of the introduction of the tax, restaurant owners have not hiked the prices of sweets produced by them

\*\* THE COUNCIL of Ministers has decided to set up a ministerial committee to study the prospect of carrying out a pettoleum pipeline project between Jordan and Iraq aiming at reducing the cost of transporting oil to the Kingdom and reducing damages caused to roads as a result of transporting oil by trucks. The committee includes the ministers of planning, pub-Mc works and housing. postal services and communications, transport and energy and mineral resources

(Al Dustour).

(Al Dustour).

## Officials extend deadline in scramble to salvage global finance deal

stepped in Friday to try to salvage a global pact that would liberalise trade in banking, insurance and securities with only limited U.S. participants, officials said.

With barely an hour to space, the ministers persuaded other World Trade Organisation (WTO) countries to extend for four weeks the deadline that was to fall at Friday midnight.
The EU moved bours after

bopes of a landmark agreement were scuttled when the United States rejected the package as inadequate.

The world has been working for the last 18 months to finalise an accord that would enable firms that deal in the huge and expanding financial services market to operate more freely in foreign coun-

Failure would be a blow to world trade liberalisation prospects and could damage the credibility of the fledgling WTO overseeing the negotia-

Faced with rejection by the world's largest economy, as the deadline approached,

GENEVA (AP) - Euro- European Union trade minispean Union trade ministers ters and ambassadors convened in an emergency session in Geneva to consider a rescue package.

The EU ministers and ambassadors won full WTO backing for the extension soon after they agreed to postpone the deadline to July 28.

"We are determined to use these weeks to keep the offers on the table or even improve them," said Peter Guilford, spokesman for EU Trade Commissioner Leon Brittan, "It's important there's no backsliding."
The EU will try for an

interim agreement of threefour years, he said. Delegates Thursday described as a "bombshell" the U.S. block of the longnegotiated market-opening measures which were offered

by around 80 countries. Washington said the offers from some South East Asian countries were inadequate. It said giving in to overrestrictive financial laws in some countries would allow "free riders" to profit from

the United States may be ready to participate more fully at a later date if WTO members decide on an in-

terim agreement. WTO Director General Renato Ruggiero called the U.S. pullback "extremely disappointing.

Speaking to the American International Club in Geneva Friday be warned: "A failure here could be bad news not only for the global economy and its growth prospects, but also for the (WTO) multilateral system and for all its member countries, including the United States.

He added that "there is no guarantee that bilateral negotiations outside the WTO can yield better results than those available now.

Financial services is a huge potential growth area for trade but was left out of a wide-ranging trade liberalisation pact sealed in December 1993 because Washington contended the offers from some developing countries to open up their financial markets were inadequate.

year in the hopes of reaching

Washington has said that from July 1 it will back down from its open matket offer of equal treatment for all made in December 93 and reserve

the right to offer better market access to those countries who offer better deals to U.S. This contravenes a key

WTO rule of offering equal access to all countries. A senior ambassador to the WTO, speaking on condition that he not be named said a powerful industrial lobby in the United States had been putting pressure on the administration not to accept poor market opening Offers saying this would be unfair to Amer-

ican companies.

The talks have been overshadowed by the recent U.S. dispute with Japan over automobiles, but in economic terms they are potentially more important.

International banking transactions among countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), totalled \$40 billion in 1992 and exports in insurance services were worth \$50 billion, according to the WTO,

#### A deadline for the accord other more liberal markets. However, the chief U.S. was fixed for June 30 this negotiator Jeffrey Lang said

Top Indian official gives pledge on reforms PARIS (R) - India's finance secretary assured international donors on Friday the country's free-market reforms would not be derailed by national elections due within

a year.
"There is a very broad consensus across the political parties on the broad direction of reform," Montek Singh

**Financial** 

Markets

Ahluwalia told a news conference, "India is on a path of reform which is not going to be derailed.'

His comments came after a World Bank meeting in Paris where donor nations and multinational agencies pledged \$6.75 billion, up from the previous year's \$6.0 billion. Of that amount, some

**Jordan Times** 

Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary

(June 26-June 30, 1995)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit rose modestly against the yen and sterling at the end of last week, while stabilising against

the matk. It ended the week 0.35 pet cent higher against the

The dollar appreciated against other major currencies Monday, especially against European currencies. Political

uncertainty in Great Britain after news that right wing

British cabinet minister, John Redwood, had decided to

challenge John Major for the leadership of the conservative

The U.S. unit declined against the mark and yen Tuesday,

while appreciating marginally against sterling. It retreated to

1.3808 marks during trading hours, following the release of

the U.S. Consumer Confidence report showing a decrease to

92.8 in Juoe, compared to 102 in the previous month. The

dollar rose later that day, however, affected by short

covering.

The dollar rose against other major currencies Wednesday, following news that the U.S. and Japan had reached a

yen and 0.78 per cent higher against sterling.

party contributed to the dollar's rise.

40 per cent was in grants and interest-free loans.

There has been investor concern that the elections could meance the reforms launched in 1991 amid charges by some politicians that the changes are benefiting only the wealthy.
Mr. Ahluwalia would not

comment on reports that a review panel set up by the new government of Maharashtra had urged scrapping a \$2.1 billion power project to be built by Enron Development Corp. of the United But he underlined no decision had been taken yet.

He rejected suggestions the controversy stemming from complaints the power to be generated would be too costly and that the deal had not been offered to public tender could send a chill through foreign investors.

'Virtually all the newly elected chief ministers (of states) have been going abroad and they have certain ly not been taking a message that is negative on reform.

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### TRANSPORT   141   165   16	MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	250	345	1.3 <del>9</del> 0 1.380
### PROBLEM STEPHEN	THE HOUSING BANK	2300	62363	a.200 8.230
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### PROBLEM STEPHEN	JORDAN GULF BANK	2600	3355	1,290 1.300
### PROBLEM STEPHEN	JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK .	6016	22410	3.770 3.740
### PROBLEM STEPHEN	UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT .	580	2049	2.000 2.050
### PROBLEM STEPHEN	BUSINESS HANK	2110	649	3.990 3.934
### TRANSPORT   141   165   16	DELL BERGE SKATEGETKAESTERKE LOG INCOSTOR	9450	10611	1.130 1.120
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trade agreement concerning the auto sector. The agreement was reached only bours before U.S. trade sanctions against Japan were to take effect. The U.S. unit retreated against other major currencies Euro Thursday, however, affected by scepticism by some market participants concerning the U.S.-Japan trade deal the DOLLAR previous day. According to these participants, not only would the deal be difficult to implement, but it also covers only a small fraction of trade between the two countries. As such, they believe that the deal will bave a minimum impact on the U.S. trade deficit. Meanwhile, fears of possible joint Make Car

The dollar rose Friday, influenced by the release of the University of Michigan Consumer Confidence Report showing a rise to 92.7 in June, compared to 89.8 in the previous months. Meanwhile, the dollar was little influenced by the release of the University of Chicago Purchasing Managers Index showing a decrease from 53.5 in May, to 47.6 in June. The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.3815 marks, 84.65

central bank intervention to prop up the dollar limited its

ven and at \$1.5950 to sterling. New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the

Currency	Friday June - 23 - 1995 Close	Friday June - 30 - 1995 Close	Percent Change
terling Pound*	1.6075	1.5950	~(0.78) %·
entsche Mark	1.3853	1,3815	0.28 %
wice Franc	1.1475	1.1485	(0.09) %
rench Franc	4.8620	4.8415	0.42 %
apanese Yen	84.35	84.65	(0.35) %

Euro-Currency Int	lone - 2	23 - 1995	June - 30 -	June - 30 - 1995		
Сигтепсу	1-Mouth (%)	-Year (%)	1-Monts (%)	1-Year (%)		
U.S. Dollar	5.87	5.50	5.87	5.87		
Stering Pound	6.50	7.12	6.60	7.43		
Deutsche Mark	431	4.52	4.34	4.43		
Swiss Franc	2.93	3.12	2.87	3.12		
French Franc	6,88	6.25	6.96	6.25		
Innanese Yes	1,21	0.96	1.23	0.93		

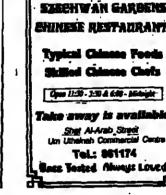
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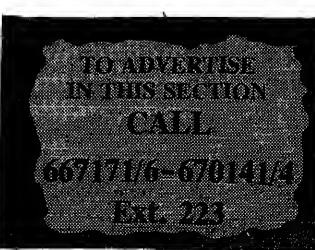














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## Kingdom's women's basketball team faces Syrian Al Jala' tonight

By Aleen Bannayan Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Jordan's women's basketball team Monday have their first test for the upcoming Asian Championship when they face Syrian champions Al Jala' in the first of four

Al Jala's 16-member delegation had arrived in Amman Sunday on a week-long visit to the Kingdom on an invitation from the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF). In an interview with the Jordan Times. Al Jala's coach Nidal Farra said he hoped both teams will benefit from the matches and thanked the JBF for their invitation.

Al Jala' currently lead the standings in the Syrian League

and will play a three-round playoff against titleholders Al Horrieh and Al Ourouba clubs starting July 19.

"The timing of these matches is very beneficial for our

team. It is also undoubtedly important for the Jordanian team as they prepare for the Asian Championships. I wish them good luck, and hope they do well in Japan."

The four matches are intended to put the finishing

touches on the Kingdom's team's preparations for the upcoming Asian Basketball championship which will be held in Shizuaka, Japan, July 23-30. Jordan's national team has been practising since January when the JBF announced the regrouping of the women's team after a 12-year absence from the basketball scene. However ching the JBF's cash-strapped budget another

four matches against a Ukrainian team were cancelled last Al Jala' have a 3-0 record over Jordanian teams. They beat Jordan's 1994 champions Al Jazirch twice in Aleppo early last year and again in July '94 when they finished second behind Lebanon's Homentmen in Al Jazireh's five-team regional championship.

Al Jala's coach said he expected a big improvement in Jordanian women's basketball, "When Al Jazireh played in Aleppo we easily beat them twice. However, a few months later in Amman we beat them again - but with difficulty.

Al Jala's line-up includes five players on the Syrian national team including Al Yarmouk Club's powerful centre Elo Mouradian. Other national team players include Karin and Miriam Abdulnour, Karla Maghamez, Dina Abdul Samad and Joel Ahboushi. The team includes Reem Shakkour, Nour Tarabishi, Tania Ribat, Aleen Khokaz, Regina Maqdesi and Wa'ed Karroum.

The Kingdom's team is coached by Fadi Sabbah and includes: Rana Husseini, Tala Mauje, Jumana Salti, Hala Muheisen, Shuhair Makusi, Andeira Oassesieh, Teitana Qardan, Hind Gbouri, Sirsa Naghaway, Dima Shadccd, Zein Sha'sha. Rania Al Dajani, Jihan Abdulnour is also set to join the team on Monday after taking leave from her work in Beirut.

#### Schedule of Matches

Monday 3/7 Jala' vs. Jordan Sports Palace 7:30 p.m. Tuesday 4/7 Jala' vs. Jordan Sports Palace 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 6/7 Jala' vs. Jordan Orthodoxi Court 7:30 p.m. Friday 7/7 Jaia vs. Jordan Orthodoxi Court 7:30 p.m.



al Springboard Diving tournament in Vienna (AFP photo)

## Schumacher wins French Grand Prix

MAGNY COURS, France, (AFP) - World champion Michael Schumacher won his fourth race of the season here on Sunday when he dominated the French Grand Prix at the wheel of his Benetion Renault.

British rival Damon Hill. who had started from pole position and held the early race lead, took second place half a minute ahead of Williams Renault teammate David Coulthard in third.

Schumacher wrested the lead from Hill in the 21st lap. when the Englishman made his first pit stop, and he did not surrender it for the rest of the tace.

Instead the rest of the field fell inexorably behind the German, who extended his lead in the driver's championship from seven to 11 points over Hill.

triumphs this season at Brazil, Spain and Monaco and established him as unquestionably the dominant force in Formula One.

The victory will also have been all the sweeter after a tyre shortage, caused by Goodyear technicians who accidentally punctured two of his seven sets, had upset Schumacher on Saturday.

The Benetton team had appealed unsuccessfully for two new sets from the ruling International Automobile Federation.

Martin Brundle finished an agonising fourth in the Ligier, who celebrated their 300th grand prix here, after failing to get past Coulthard in the final bend following a tremendous battle between the two men.

Crowd favourite Jean Alesic of France, who was hoping to follow up his maiden win in Canada two weeks ago, was a disappointing fifth in his Ferrari.

To the delight of the British fans. Hill made a fine start, hurtling from his pole position into the Grande Courbe turn and fending off Schumacher's desperate challenge to take the lead.

The two men soon broke away from a trio of pursuers featuring Rubens Barrichello in the Jordan. Coulthard and Olivier Panis in a Ligier. Both Barrichello and Panis were later given a 10 sec 'stop and go' penalty for jumping

the start. Further back the Ferrans of Alesi and Gerhard Berger both spun on the third lap after Frenchman had nudged Schumacher's British teammate Johnny Herbert out of the race with an overtaking manoeuvre. Only the Ferrai-

is were able to re-start. The incident benefitted Brundle in the other I reier.

sting through the gap.
With a dozen laps gone Schumacher was still rivetted to the back of the Hill's Williams-Renault, with Coulthard eight seconds further

with the British veteran bur-

back and struggli i to keep Brundle at bay. Alesi was a distant fifth, 20 sec off the After a series of vain attacks Schumacher finally took the lead on the 21st lap when Hill made his pit-stop. five mintues after the Ger-

set of tyres. The first stops also reshuffled third and fourth in places with Brundle swapping over with Coulthard. although the biggest loser by fai was Berger, who dropped nearly a numule as his technicians struggled to plug the

man had been in for a fresh

fuel mazle into his Ferrari Once in front Schumacher inevorably opened up the gap

on Hitl, building it up from eight seconds to nearly 13 halfway through the 72-lap race. Coulthard then was more than half a minute adrift in 72-lap race. Coulthard then was more than half a minute adrift in third place after a pit-stop by Brundle knocked the Englishman back into fifth behind Alesi.

Schumaeher's dominance went completely unchallenged when the top cars went in for their second pitstops, two-thirds through the race. The world champion emerged nearly 15 sec clear of Hill and 37sec ahead of Brundle, with Coulthard fourth and Alexi fifth.

Ligier's three-pitstop strategy cost Brundle his third place, the 36-year-old swapping places again with Coulthard with less than 20 laps to go, but just managing to stay in front of Alesi.

## Jordanian table tennis aims for new heights

By Roulan Nahhas Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Financial support, lack of experience and care for the juniors at their primary levels remain the main problems facing our sports teams. Table tennis is one of them. As an ex-champion of the

game, president of the Jordan Table Tennis Federation (JTTF) Dr. Ismat Kurdi is really disturbed with the state of the game in the Kingdom.

players failed to ratify a sixyear collective bargaining agreement bammered out by NBA and union officials.

That left three parties arguing the issues — the league, the union and the game plunged to the eurdissident players led by 'Dream Team' duo Michael

the union decertified. Union chief Simon Gour-dine said he still believed a deal could be worked out before the lockout interferes with the upcoming NBA sea-

"We will meet with the owners shortly," Gourdine said, "and if they are prepared to respond in a meaningful way to the concerns our players bave addressed with the proposed agreement, we can resolve this work stoppage with a ratified agreement within the next few weeks."

**NBA** 

labour

dispute

begins

NEW YORK (AFP) — First

baseball, then the Hockey,

now basketball, but both

league and union officials say

they hope the first work stop-page in the history of the National Basketball Associa-

tion can be resolved soon.
The NBA lockout took

effeet on Saturday, after

Jordan and Patrick Ewing

who are now trying to have

NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said: "If that deal is no longer acceptable to the players, then we are prepared to keep negotiat-

Owners ratified the new contract last week. It calls for added revenue that will be shared with players, an increase in the salary cap from \$15 million to \$23 million, a rookie salary cap and a lux-ury tax designed to tighten the salary cap on certain large

But some players balked at the luxury tax, which they say will restrict salaries too much and prevent player move-

Gourdine blamed player agents for provoking players

And NBA commissioner David Stern said the dissidents had been poorly advised when they decided to move to decertify the union and file an anti-trust suit against the league.

He said the renegades got 'incorrect legal advice of some very significant magni-

"That will ultimately be borne out by the courts and by the losses that both we and our players are going to suf-fer from this work stoppage." Jeffrey Kessler, the lawyer

who filed the anti-trust law-

suit on behalf of seven players, said the NBA would come out the loser in court. If the dissident players' suit is successful, Kessler said, the league will find itself owing

damages to players. "Some players are due millions of dollars at the beginning of July or next season." Kessler said, though he gave no examples. The league may owe these players three times the payments they are owed.

During the lockout, teams eannot negotiate with rookics or free agents, no summer training leagues or tryouts will be held, and players cannot work out at team facilities or receive benefit payments.

have some people who support us like the Potash Company," he added. Beside the financial

dilemma, more concern should be focus on the training of school children early, says Dr. Kurdi. "Only then we can build a team to compete on the international level. "Schools should care ab-

out the unknown talents and abilities of children. They are our treasure. We can take these potentials and make something out of In an interview with the Jordan Times Dr. Kurdi exthem," said Dr. Kurdi. If we were to talk about plained how the level of the

the time Jordanian table tennis enjoyed its golden years we should go back in time — about 1S years ago rent level and what can be done to take it to new in 1977 in Syria when we "Lack of players' experi-ence is our problem in this game. We cannot successtook second place at the Arab Championship. The women's team took third place in 1978. fully compete against other teams who enjoy far berter So what happened after

circumstances that develop all these years? their game," he noted. Jackleen Dugom an ex-Like any other sport in the country, the need for financial support is indis-

pensable at all levels.
"While we get JD 15,000 from the Ministry of Youth, expenses exceed that amount," Dr. Kurdi noted. "Let's not forget that we have expenses. We need money to invite teams here or even go abroad. Also a big amount of money goes to the referees. But we do

1988 and is now a member

player who represented Jordan in Scoul Olympics in in the JTTF told the Jordan Times that players' attitudes was the main difference. "Nowadays, we face another sort of problems which is uncommitted play-

"We have some players who prefer to go with their friends to a club instead of coming to training with the national team." Jackleen explains.

Dugom left the team on ground that she could not do more on the national team. But as a member in the JTTF she is still involved in the game.
"It is true that I left the

game but now I am helping the new players, so you can say that I am still in it," she

The early retirement of players like Dugom and Nadia Rashad who also competed in the Olympics is a loss to our team, but can we afford to lose more?

The last Asian Championship which took place in China demonstrated the true level of the players:
"Undoubtedly the women's team lacked experience. and the men's team did well but not as good as we hoped they would do."

"What our team lacks is mostly technical. Some players still don't have the basic moves and techniques but now we are taking care

of these things."
Hopes lie in finding and creating new champions. On July 1st the Kingdom championship started. The JTTF hopes new champions will be sported who may someday again successfully represent Jordan on the in-

#### **SPORTS IN BRIEF**

#### **Ball quits Southampton**

LONDON (R) — Southampton boss Alan NAIROBI (AFP) — Triple world record Manchester club's managing director Colin Barlow confirmed on Saturday. Barlow said dell to take on the task of reviving the fortunes of the club, so long in the shadow of neighbouring giants Manchester United. 'Obviously we are delighted. He has been on our short-list of four from the start," he said. "our chairman Francis Lec did not even need to fly out to Spain where Alan is on holiday because Alan accepted our offer on the phone." City finished 17th in the 22-strong Premier League last season, four points and two places away from relegation.

#### **Clinton addresses Special Olympics**

NEW HAVEN (AFP) - U.S. President Bill Clinton officially opened the Special Olymmetres. pics World Games here in Connecticut state, in which 7,000 handicapped athletes will take Mantle denies preferential treatment from all of you standing down here in the Yale Bowl tonight." he said. "Everybody counts and everyhody can dn something very, very important and good," he told some 7(1,100) spectators assembled in the stadium Saturday which will last nine days.

#### Foster in Jamaican team

KINGSTON (R) - High hurdler Robert Foster, sent home in disgrace from last has been included in the Jamaiean team for next month's world championships in Gothenburg, Women's Commonwealth 100 metres hurdles champion Michelle Freeman has also been selected despite dropping out of the semifinals at the national championships after hitting a barrier. German-born 1,500 metres specialist Yvonne Graham, wife of Olympic 40xt metres hurdles silver medallist Winthrop, has been included along with her husband in the team.

#### Hamed closer to title fight

LONDON (AP) - Nascem Hamed's arrogant strut towards world title fight took another swagger furward with a second-round knock out of former world champion Juan Polo Perez in a defence of his WBC international super bantamweight belt Saturday, Hamed, 21, danced and weaved his way through an easy first round, but unleashed some power punching two minutes into the second round to floor Polo Perez twice within 10 seconds, "I'll be world champion after my next fight," the British fighter said after the bout at the Royal Albert Hall. "No need to rave on about anything any more, t'm the best, you all know I'm the best.

#### Kiptanui to lead Kenya

Ball has accepted a three-year contract to holder Moses Kiptanui will lead Kenya's become manager of Manchester City, the 96-member new-look athletics team at next month's World Championships and the 6th All African Games in Zimbabwe in Septemhe was delighted Ball had agreed to leave the ber. However, the three-day national championships held at the Moi International Sports Centre at Kasarani climinated several Olympic and world championship medallists. Kiptanui shrugged off a strong field to win the 3,000-metre steeplechase in 8 minute 16.93 seconds, ahead of Olympic champion Matthew Birir, who clocked 8:17.95. Junior world champion Josephat Machuka booked his place by winning the 10,000 metres in 27 minute 53.0 seconds, with little-known Joseph Kimani taking second place in 27:59.1. This year's world cross-country champion Paul Tergat was third in 28:0.3. However, Olympic silver medallist and double world crosscountry champion William Sigei failed to make team after he finished fifth in the 10,000

DALLAS (AFP) — Baseball great Mickey Mantle, in his first interview since he received a new liver, said it was pure chance a donor liver was found in time to save his life. "You know, people think I got that liver because of night. The Greek team led the athletes into who I am, but they have rules they go by," he the stadium, marking the start of the Games, said in Sunday's edition of the New York Daily News. "They told me I had one day to live. If I hadn't got this one. I wouldn't have made it." Mantle was hospitalised on May 28 and got a new liver on June 8. Doctors said his liver was failing because of a small malignant tumour, years of alcohol abuse and a long August's Commonwealth Games after testing dormant hepatitis C infection. The speed with which a donor was found sparked debate over whether the 63-year-old Mantle, a member of seven World Series winning New York Yankces seams, got preferential treatment. Despite those charges from some quarters, hospital authorities said Mantle was flooded with cards of support during his stay at Baylor University Medical Centre. Mantle said he did not realise how ill he was before the transplant.

#### Carnegie grabs another prize

SAINT CLOUD, France (AFP) — The Sheikh Mohammad owned Carnegie, 1994 Arc De Triomphe winner, put his disappointing run in Epsom's Coronation Cup behind him to take the prestigious Group I Grand Pax de St. Cloud, worth 150000 pounds to the winner, over a mile and a half (2400 metres) here on Sunday. Carnegie trained by Napoleon fanalic Andre Fabre faced strong opposi-tion in 1994 Breeders Cup Turf winner Tikkanen, his Epsom conqueror and stablemate Sunshack and two English opponents the filly Only Royale trained by Italian Luca Cumani and Italian Derby winner Luso, Luso is trained by "Pattern Race" Clive Brittain, so called because like Don Ouixore he likes tilting his horses at scemingly impossible

#### GOREN BRIDGE

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### Parma sign Stoichkov • from Barcelona

VARNA, Bulgaria (R) — European footballer of the year Hristo Stoichkov said on Saturday he bad joined Parma of Italy from Barcelona.

"My Barcelona period has ended and now, as a Parma player, I will be seeking new victories," Stoichkov said at his Black Sea holiday retreat. "From now on I will think

how to win Italy's champions title with Parma," the Bulgaria World Cup star said in an interview with the Bulgarian radio station seven days. "In two days, from Tues-day, I will be Parma's play-

er," added Stoichkov, who posed with his wife for a Reuter photographer at his Varna hotel on Saturday night.

He then left with friends including World Cup team mate Yordan Lechkov who plays for Germany's Hamburs — for a restaurant in the Black Sea resort to celebrate his new contract.

sing financial conditions with Parma. said be has chosen the Italian team because they were the first to approach him with concrete offers and he liked their style of play.

But Italian television reported from Parma that Stoichkov bad agreed to a three-year contract and the deal was worth an estimated 25 billion lir (\$15 million), half going to the player and the rest to Barcelona.

It said the contract was signd in Barcelona on Saturday in the presence of executives of the former Spanish champions and Parma director general Giambattista Pas-

Stoichkov is expected in Italy on Monday for a medical examination.

Parma, an ambitious club who only won promotion to Serie A in 1990, have since won the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1993, reached the final following season and taken the UEFA Cup the Stoichkov. denying discus- season after that.

### Yugoslavia, Lithuania in basketball final

ATHENS (AP) — Sarunas Marciulionis and Arvydas Malonis carried Lithuania to a 80-70 victory over Croatia. Saturday and a final showdown with Yugoslavia at the European Championship.

Predrag Danilovic and Dejan Bodiroga led Yugoslavia to a 60-52 victory over bost Greece in a game marked by poor shooting by both teams. Yugoslavia is making a re-

turn after missing international competition for 21/2 years because of U.N. sanc-Marciulionis, the Seattle

Supersonics guard, had 27 points and Sabonis, the giant centre who is beading to the Portland Trail Blazers, added 26 as Lithuania spoiled the bopes for an expected Yugoslavia-Croatia final.

Lithuania has the chance to win its first title since regaining independence following the breakup of the Soviet Union. It won the 1937 and 1939 titles. Yugoslavia beat Lithuania 70-61 in group play

"I haven't seen my team play so well for a long time, they've playing great the entire tournament, except at the end against Yugoslavia." said Lithuanian coach Vladas Garastas.

Sabonis also had 17 rebounds, and Lithnania got 19 points from Arturas Karnishovas, a former Seton Hall player who outplayed Toni Kukoc of the Chicago Bulls and scored some big points.

Lithuania took a 10-point lead at the start, Croatia battled back to even the score, but Lithuania kept opening up leads.

Ivica Maric bit a 3-pointer to bring Croatia within one, 73-72, with 4:18 left.

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## Tarango tantrum upstages Agassi

LONDON (R) - Unheralded but no longer un-sung California Jeff Tarango walked on the wild side at Wimbledon on Saturday, defaulting in dramatic circumstances to upstage a fighting victory by Andre Agassi.

·win

Accusing the umpire of bias against him and of awarding past matches to other players for friendship, Tarango capped a tantrum over a service call in his third-round match with German Alexander Mronz by stomping off court in a mood of thunder.

You are the most corrupt official in the game," the 26-year-old American shouted at French umpire Bruno Rebeuh before be departed in a manner unprecedented in Wimbledon's long, colourful and cbe-

quered history.

No player had ever de-faulted himself before, though Briton Tim Henman was defaulted from a doubles on Wednesday after hitting a ballgirl with a ball struck in

anger.
Tarango, whose wife Benedicte later slapped Rebeuh, levelled his accusations against the umpire at a press conference and maintained be was justified in his action because I don't feel a player has any defence these days in getting some kind of justice when things go wrong against

Top seed Agassi survived a predictably bruising encoun-ter with fellow American David Wheaton, winning 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 to take a 4-3 edge in his lifetime series against a player he grew up

"David plays erratic but big tennis and it doesn't lend to feeling good about your

Rashed near Al Dawahi Hotel.



Jeff Tarango of the U.S. in discussion with a Wimbledon referee after a dispute line call. Tarango finally walked off the court leaving Alexander Mronz to win the game (AFP

game. I just feel glad about getting through it," he said. Asked his opinion about Tarango's outburst, Agassi "I think it's a sad situation. Maybe he should have taken an hour or so before he came into the press-room here, to regroup a little bit. Nobody wins in a situation like that. There's no reason

to turn it into a circus." He next faces the 117thranked Mronz, whose score against Tarango read 7-6, 3-1 default.

Third seed Boris Becker raised his game a notch after dropping the first set and beat Dutchman Jan Siemerink 2-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4. Next he will face the towering Belgian outsider Dick Norman, who continued his amazing prog-ress with a 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 victory over Australian Todd Woodbridge.

The towering 2.04 metres Norman, ranked 176th, is the first lucky loser from the qualifying draw final round eve to get to the Wimbledon

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fourth round. He beat former champions Pat Cash and Stefan Edberg earlier.

The only upset in either singles came when Ines Gorrochategui of Argentina defeated women's 10th seed Natasha Zvereva of Belarus

2-6, 6-4, 6-4. Steffi Graf blitzed Dutchwoman Kristie Boogert 6-1. 6-0 but Japanese sixth seed Kimiko date started slowly before getting the measure of American Tami Whitlinger Jones 1-6, 6-3, 6-3.

But it all paled into insignificance beside Tarango, who was himself labelled insignificant by one commenta-

Tarango's problems in the match, other than finding Rebeuh in the chair, came when

linesman and called a Tarango service good. He ordered the point to be

the umpire overruled the

replayed. Tarango felt strongly he should have been awarded an ace.

His protest brought a penalty point, then loss of game, at which juncture Tarango had had enough and off he went.

Now Tarango faces a substantial fine and a possible supension after the case and his accusations are investi-

Tarango went on to attack the lack of recourse he feels players bave.

"We don't have player representatives any more — the title has been changed to tour manager," be said.

'We don't have anybody who'll defend us when we're fined. It just goes straight to an appeal where one person decided and that's it. People just take money out of our pockets every week for fines and we can't appeal to any-

one.
"We bave to sue the tour, or whatever body fines us, in order to try to get our \$500 or \$1,000 back but it makes no sense for us to try to do this because the lawyer fees alone are more than that."

☆ Martin doesn't go for short cut: Big-serving Todd Martin believes the Wimbledon courts are getting faster each day because the grass is being cut too short.

While much debate has focused on the reduced pressure of the balls to try and slow down the power bitters, Martin, who outgunned Derric Rostagno 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 to gain the last 16, said nothing would take the sting out of the big serves hurled down by players like goran Ivanisevic and Pete amoras:

"Whoever tried to do something with the balls didn't do a good job because it's no slower," the 6-foot-6

(1.98 metre) American said. Until they stop cutting the grass shorter and shorter as the tournament goes on, it's always going to be fast.

The court today was 20, 25 per cent faster than it was two days ago and the grass is dying quickly. I'm sure it's because of the sun and the abuse it's getting but they're also cutting the grass much shorter," said Martin.

"In my lawnmowing little experience, the shorter you cut it the easier it dies, which is going to make it quick."

Graf likes it hot: Wimbledon's current heat wave is good news for Steffi Graf. The German player, who is bidding for a sixth singles titles, may not have an opponent that can beat her in the draw but her worst enemy remains a chronic back in-

'It is important the weather stays warm - the warmer the better - so that my back does not stiffen up," says 6-year-old Graf.

Tve been living with this problem for eight or nine months now. There has been no real trouble with it this week but I've had the occasional loss of concentration worrying maybe that it will

Language barrier: Andre Agassi has been keeping an ear on Britain's tennis import from Canada — Greg Rusedski.

"I'm getting a kick out of watching him try to pick up the English accent," said Agassi, who, like Britain's new Davis Cup bope, is safely through to the third-round the men's singles. "He's started using words

like 'brilliant' and 'lovely' in his press conferences!"

Wimbledon notebook

# Pam Shriver has had so much trouble with ber shoulder she's become something

of an expert on injuries. So it could be bad news for Steffi Graf when the American says the German's back injury

could finish her career. "I bebeve her back will be bad for the rest of her career," said Shriver, who turned 33 Tuesday and is making ber 16th appearance at Wimbledon.

"She must try to keep it contained and keep it from getting worse. But that's easier said than done and I'm sure it is on her mind all the

"I would not be surprised if at any time she said 'hey, I have battled through this pain as long as I can and it's time to let it go," said Shriv-er, who needed surgery in 1990 to repair a loose and unstable shoulder.

Graf, trouble to make it to the fourth round. She overpowered dutch player Kristie Boogert 6-1, 6-0 Saturday.
"Naturally, I can't answer

for her," Shriver said. "Bur I think this year is the year to say 'is it going to get worse or is it going to stay as it is."

# Stick to tennis, Pete: Pete Sampras admins be hits The ball like John Daly. The golf ball, that is.

The defending Wimbledon champion says he's an enthusiastic golfer when he's away from the tennis court. Renowned for his big serves, he admits some of it rubs off on the golf course.

"I like to give the ball a real belt like Daly," he said.
"I swing all out and I guess I can hit it 300 yards at times.
"Mind you Daly he a bet "Mind you, Daly has a lot more control than me. My long drives often finish in the

Daly probably wouldn't agree, but Sampras believes that golf isn't as tough as

tennis "Golf should be easy," he said. "After all, the ball never moves and you try to produce the same swing all

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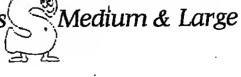
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#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Algeria replaces interior minister

PARIS (R) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual has removed hardline Interior Minister Abdul Rahmane Mexiane-cherif, a staunch opponent of Muslim militants. Algerian state-run radio said on Sunday. The radio, quoting an official statement, said Mustapha Ben Mensour had been named to replace Mr. Meziane-cherif and that the change was made at the proposal of Prime Minister

#### Iran will support what Syria wants

NICOSIA (AFP) - Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Sunday repeated his opposition to the Middle East peace process, but said that if Syria was happy with a peace deal with Israel then Tehran would be too. He told Cable News Network (CNN) that a peace accord between Israel and Syria was a "hypothesis" which would have to be seen before Iran could adopt a position on it. "If there is an agreement and Syria is content with it, we will be content." he said. But he added the "peace process is not a peace." it is "fire under ashes." The Iranian leader added that his country was not taking any "practical measures" against the peace process, implicitly rejecting accusations that his country supports international "terror-ism." If there are Palestinian groups fighting, that is their

#### Yemeni authorities foil hijacking bid

SANAA (AFP) - Yemeni authorities on Sunday foiled an attempted hijacking of an Ethiopian plane from Sanaa international airport only minutes before take-off. The Ethiopian hijacker brought a bomb on board but security services discovered the explosive just "minutes before the plane took off for Addis Ababa," an official spokesman said. The would-be hijacker, who had hidden the bomb in an electrical item, was arrested on board. An initial inquiry identified the hijacker as 28-year-old Mousfian Bayo. Authorities said he was planning to force the pilot to fly to Kampala, the capital of Uganda. The Yemeni spokesman did not say what Bayo's motives were, but added an inquiry had been launched.

#### 'Powell would run neck-and-neck against Clinton'

NEW YORK (AP) - President Bill Clinton and former U.S. military chief Colin Powell would be in a dead heat in a head-to-head presidential election, a Time Magazine-CNN poll found. Assuming he runs for the Republican Party, Mr. Powell, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was favoured over Mr. Clinton 44 per cent to 41 per cent in the poll of 1,000 people conducted June 21-22. Others said they were not sure or would not vote. The survey, in the issue of Time due out Monday, had a margin of error of plus or minus three per cent, meaning Mr. Clinton and Mr. Powell would be in a statistical dead heat. Mr. Clinton, however, would narrowly win a three-way race against Republican Bob Dole and Mr. Powell running as an independent. In the three-way contest, 33 per cent favoured Mr. Clinton, 29 per cent Mr. Powell and 27 per cent Mr. Dole.

#### Iranian group warns against press law reform

TEHRAN (AFP) - An Iranian opposition group warned Sunday that a proposed new press law would further restrict political and cultural freedom in the Islamic republic. The nationalist Liberation Movement of Iran (LMI), one of the rare opposition groups to be tolerated here, said in a statement that "anti-democratic" changes outlined in the draft law would have "dangerous consequences" for the country's fledgling press freedom. They would "seal a hole of freedom our people have gained over the years," said the group, headed by Ebrahim Yazdi. The proposal, to be discussed by parliament next month, would empower the Isalmic Culture Ministry to close down newspapers and periodicals if they are seen as violating the law. As the law stands, any charges against the press must be brought to a court and put before a jury in an open trial. The reform proposal has sparked controversy among politicians and journalists who see it as a move by the government to clamp down on press freedom. The LMI argued that the law, if passed, "would lead to new restrictions and to growing interference by the executive power in the dunes of the judiciary."

#### Egypt papers cash in on Mubarak wave

CAIRO (R) — Egypnan newspapers have cashed in on the wave of popularity enjoyed by President Hosni Mubarak since his escape frm an assassination attempt last week. Two government-owned newspapers - Al Ahram and Al Akhbar — said on Sunday they had made nearly \$2.0 million from advertisements congratulating Mr. Mubarak on his escape. Al Ahram said it made 4.72 million Egyptian (\$1,38 million) in the three days after the attempt on Mubarak's life last Monday in Addis Ababa, Al Akhar said it made 1.63 million pounds 1\$478,0001 over the same

#### Hamas weekly shuts down in protest at PNA

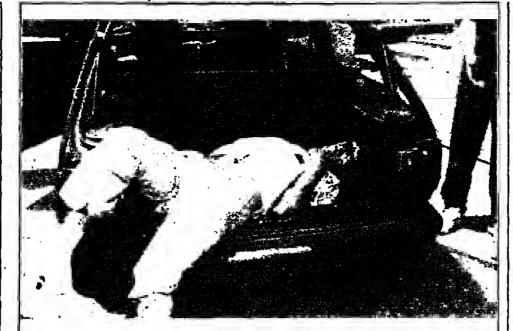
GAZA CITY (AFP) - Al Watan, the newspaper of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, has suspended publication in a protest against the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). "Our general manager is still in jail and unwell, so we announce a suspension of our publication until further notice," the weekly announced in a statement Sunday. Al Watan charged the self-rule authority with "not respecting democratic rights any more, especially the freedom of expression and opinion and press freedom." The announcement came two weeks after PNA President Yasser Arafat lifted a three-month ban imposed by a military court on Al Watan (The Homeland) for inciting revolt. The court also jailed Al Watan's general manager Saved Abu Mesameh for two years. The protest move followed Hamas accusations on Saturday that Palestinian security forces tortured detained leaders from the group and shaved nff the heards in an insult to Islam.

#### Sudan accuses Eritrea of provocations

KHARTOUM (AFP) - A Sudanese army spokesman on Sunday accused Eritrea for the first time of sparking provocations at the border between the two countries. Entrean elements constantly commit provocations at the border." General Mohammad Bashir Suleiman said without elaborating, cited in the independent daily Akbar Al Youm. Asmara broke off relations with Khartoum in December and in June hosted a conference of Sudanese opposition groups seeking to form a unified platform for overthrowing Sudan's regime, in place since 1989. "Sudan is capable of defending its security and stability." Mr. Suleiman said. The general said that plans by the oppositon's armed wing. The Sudanese Legion, to carry the civil war in the south to the north was "destined to fail because it does not correspond with reality in Sudan."

#### Girl raped, strangled and dumped in garbage

DUBAI (AFP) - A seven-year-old girl was raped and strangled before her body was dumped in a garbage can here in the United Arah Emitares, a newspaper reported Sunday. A road sweeper found her body stuffed into a bag that he had removed from a garbage can early on Saturday. investigators told the Al Khaleej newspaper. The girl appeared to have been strangled by one or more people after she had been raped, they said. She was identified by her parents who had reported her missing five days before. The victim's nationality was not given.



SHELL VICTIM: A man killed in a mortar were killed and dozens wounded in random blast lies in the back of a car which took him shelling of the city by Bosnian Serbs (see page from the scene of the blast to a hospital in one) (AFP photo) Sarajevo on Saturday. More than 12 people

## House votes against cutting down working hours

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Deputies Sunday voted down several proposals calling for the reduction of working hours and days but left the door open for private sector employers to do so on their

The votes came as the Lower House of Parliament continued its debate of a 145-article draft labour law. The House had approved 50 articles before Sunday's session during which lawmakers adopted another 10 articles with some amendments.

Also discussed during the session was a draft law on the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ). The draft leg-islation drew strong controversy as some deputies saw it unconstitutional and others said it would in-crease the tax burden on

citizens. The discussion on the WAJ draft law, which would amend a 1964 law that is still in effect, came at the outset of the session and the House finally refer-red the legislation to the Financial Committee after reversing an earlier deci-sion to lodge it with the Judiciary Committee citing Constitutional reasons.

President of the Judiciary Committe, Abdul Karim Dughmi, said the law should be either returned to the government for reconsideration or referred to the Financial Committee. He said the government has been levying taxes for over 10 years without hav-ing the right legislation to

do so. The 1964 law stipulates that taxes should be levied for a period of 20 years. Arguing that this period ended in 1964, Islamist Deputy Abdul Rahim Okour said the government has been collecting taxes "illegally" since 1984.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh said that the government did not intend to levy extra taxes from citizens.

"The government had no intention to increase the

Mr. Rawabdeh said this option was already studied in the past but did not

burdens on citizens. What

happened was merely a

conflict between laws

themselves," he said.

After settling the disptue over the JWA law, the

House returned to the draft

labour law and went into a

heated debate over the pos-

sibility of reducing working

hours and days in line with

developed countries.

The proposal to reduce the working days from six to five was made by Deputy Abdullah Ensour who said

Jordan should follow the example of developed

"The notion that our

country is backward and we

have to work double that of

developed countries is in-

valid," he said. "We should

not overload workers with

more working hours while

all developed countries are

in the process of reducing

working hours to 36 and

have already five working

countries.

days.

(Continued on page 7)

## Arab League is divided over pact of honour' to avert wars

CAIRO (AFP) - Arab League efforts to formulate a "pact of honour" to end wars between Arab countries have run into divisions because some delegates are being unrealistic and living in "fantasy land," a diplomat said on Sunday.

A league committee, which met once previously on June 12. gathered on Sunday to consider a draft agreement for the pact, which was first proposed by Egyptian Presi-dent Hosni Mubarak in March.

"The pledge will include general bases and principles. to govern inter-Arab rela-Hamad Hareb Al Habsi, the representative of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), said after the meet-

ng.
The committee — comprising Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, the UAE, Itaq and Kuwait. and for the first time this session Qatar, Libya, Morocco and the Palestinians -

vears of bloodshed, Algeria

is looking ahead to Wednesday's July 5 inde-

pendence day with a rare

optimism, sparked by fresh

talks between the lead-

ership and Islamic fun-

damentalists, that an end to

get a commitment to non-

violence by the Islamie

militants and their pledge

to respect the constitution.

In exchange, the militants want jailed activists, in-

cluding Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) leaders, freed.

Implicit in any agree-

ment would be the possibil-

ity of the outlawed FIS

being allowed in some way

to operate and take part in

eventual elections. The au-

thorities bave promised a

presidential election for

this year, to be followed at

an unspecified date by

general and local elections.

President Abassi Madanı.

serving a 12-year jail term

for activities against the

state, has recorded a video-

tape appealing for an end

Diplomats said that FIS

The authorities goal is to

crisis may be in sight.

aims to finalise a draft pact for approval at a September. meeting of the Arab League Council. "There is agreement on a

framework for putting inter-Arab relations on new foundations," Iraqi delegate Nabil Nigm said. fraq will work with se-

rious elfort to revive the Arah situation with a new formula for relations which guarantees Arah natinnal security." Mr. Nigm said. Mr. Mubarak proposed the pledge at the March session

of the Arab League Council in an effort to testure Arab solidarity which was fractured by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf wat in J990-91. But an Arab diplomat

close to Sunday's session said that the members "have different attitudes." He said some delegates

to violence after talks with

General Mohammad

Beichine, security adviser to President Liamine

"There is some progress since Abassai Madani

already has recorded a

video-tape appealing to his

followers in end violence.

and the tape is now in the

hands of the authorities.

But there is still a disagree-

ment about whn can be

released as a measure of

appeasement." one

Algiers-based diplomat

"The authorities are will-

ing to release Madani and

some jailed FIS leaders as a

first measure but the FIS is

insisting on an immediate

general amnesty," he

announcement for the in-

dependence day but I don't

believe it would be a final

Another encouraging

sign came on Saturday

when the Interior Ministry

announced a cut in the

hours of a curfew that has

agreement.

"So, there might be some

Zeroual.

wanted "to count on the Arab League Charter to establish a new idea of relations," which was "unrealis-They were living in a "fantasy land," he said.

"Of course we all support the Arab League charter, but the pledge must deal directly with the reality of the disaster of (Arab) relations and the loss of security.

"When are we going to wark in a rational framework?" he said.

The diplomat said the pledge must stick to three main security principles: Preventing the occurrence of crises, preventing their explosion and an Arab commitment against enses. There must be a mechanism to treat CHISCS

"Anything outside these principles nicans getting lost than usual from a tense in labyrinths." Nevertheless, the diplomat

lips sealed. said he expected the committce would reach a draft forbuted the deterioration in what have been generally constructione talks to the fact mula for the pledge in its next meeting in late July. He did not specify the exact date. that Chechenya's self-styled

Algeria to mark independence day with rare hope

affected most of the coun-

try's 27 million people since

February 1992. From July 5

it will run from midnight to

Two FIS leaders, Ali Jeddi and Abdul Kader

Boukhamkham, freed in an

earlier goodwill gesture

confirmed during a meeting

of eight opposition party

leaders last week in Algiers

that the FIS and Algerian

presidency were holding

kham said at the meeting

that there are contacts but

the results would only be

known through official

statements on matters re-

lated to the two parties,"

Abdul Ghafour Snadi.

spokesman of a legal fun-

damentalist movement.

Nahdha, whose leaders

attended the meeting, told

"Yes, definitely, there

are talks between the pres-

idency and Madani and

several other leaders, in-

cluding Madani's deputy

Ali Belhadj." another di-

Reuters.

plomat said.

"Jeddi and Boukham-

4 a.m.

### 19 injured in huge fire near Jerusalem OCCUPIED JERUSALEM also already entered com-

(Agencies) - At least 19 people suffered from smoke inhalation in a huge fire that cut the main highway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem on Sunday, medical officials said.

The flames, whipped by high winds, spread quickly towards Jerusalem. The western outskirts of the city were inundated with the smetl of burning wood and ashes drifted down onto the city's streets.

Police spokesman Erie Bar Chen told Reuters four communities west of Jerusalem had been evacuated. He said the villages had sustained damage from the blaze but to what extent was not yet

Hundreds of soldiers, policemen and civilian volunteers joined firemen battling the blaze.

Avraham Halhersberg, of Israel's emergency medical service Magen David Adom told Israel Radio: "We know. of about 19 injured who are being evacuated to Jerusalem.

fsrael Radio said firefighters suspected arsonists caused the blaze.

Mr. Bar Chen later said fire officials had meant the "human element" could have caused it, meaning, he said, a earelessly tossed eigarette might have ignited the blaze. Hundreds of people fled the four communities in the

fire's path.
"We saw a long line of people streaming out of Newe Ilan on foot, some with their animals, eamels, a donkey," witness Rachel Goldberg said.

Helicopters dumped water on the burning forests.

The Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway in the area of the fire was closed. The flames had jumped the expressway in one spot, officials said. A forest ranger told Israel Radio from the site:

"The fire is very, very big. It has really destroyed thousands of dunums. It has

GROZNY (AFP) - Russian

and Chechen negotiators

trying to forge a peace deal

here hit a major stumbling

brnached for the first time

Chechenya's constitutional

status, a Chechen leader said.

Chechen delegation head

Usman Imayev said Sunday's

talks had been dedicated to

the thorny issue of the

separatist-minded Caucasus

republic's future status, but

had yielded little progress.

"At the mument, no agree-ment looks likely." Mr. Im-

ayev said, "but this is

obviously not a question

which can be discussed in a

Mr. Imayev's fortitude

could not disguise the fact

that the talks, held at the

Grozny mission of the Orga-

nisation for Security and

Cooperation in Europe

(OSCE), hud taken a turn inr

Delegates emerged carlier

Russian delegates attri-

atmophere, faces grim and

"The talks got the green light to go ahead from a

college of top army generals at their periodic meet-

ing in June, on condition

the FIS publicly appeals for

an end to violence and commits itself to respect

the constitution and coun-

But diplomats say that

even if an agreement is

reached and the FIS appeal

made, there is no certainty

that militants of all the

armed groups will ahide by

a pledge to end violence. This is particularly true

of guerrillas in the Armed

Islamie Group (GIA), the

most radical fundamental-

ist movement, which acts

largely autonomously and

whose members are re-

ported to have battled

those of the FIS armed-

wmg, the fslamic Salvation

Some of these militants

believe power will only

come through force, and

point to the authorities'

eancellation in January

1992 of a general election which the FIS was possed to

try's laws."

Amty.

the worse Sunday.

**Constitutional status** 

snags Chechen talks

munities.... Aharon said.

He said the fire extended eight kilometres from the town of Beit Shemesh to Shoresh, a moshav (semiconceive community) about 10 kilometres west of Jerusalem:

Cars were backed up for kilometres in either direction. Traffic also came to a standstill in many parts of Jerusalem. Residents were evacuated

from a cluster of towns several kilometres west of Jerusalem as the flames approached. Police identified the towns as Newe Ilan. Shoresh, Shoeva, Telstone. Kiriyat Yaurim and Yad Hashmona. Several houses and a small

hotel were ablaze in Shoresh. In Telstone, a small community of ultra-orthodox Jews, dozens of people left on foot. Some women pushed haby strollers loaded with suitcases, and one man in a black coat and hat carried a Torah scroll in his arms. Others got into buses. Along the Tel Aviv-

Jerusalem highway, flames shot 20 metres into the air and employees at a nearhy gas station hosed down fuel lanks with water. Police van blocked the

road, barring motorists from driving past the fire. An alternate route was also jam-"I propose that anyone

who does not urgently need to get out of Jerusalem or go to Jerusalem stay home," said Ido Gutmann, head of traffic police.

Ashes fell as far as down town Jerusalem and the smell of smoke permeated the city. Record temperatures were measured in much of Israel on Sunday because of a hot desert wind, known in Hebrew as sharav.

In Tel Aviv, temperatures rose to 37 degrees Celcius. the highest for this day since 1884, meteorologists said.

president. Dzhokhar

to a Russian "zero-option"

Under the initiative, all

the wat-torn republic - in-

cluding Mr. Dudayev as well

as Moscow's own proteges -

sign that he is prepared to

sian delegation source as

the "zero option" and on

cow wants held in November.

the issue of Chechenva's con-

stitutional status will remain

laration of independence in

1991 which ultimately promp-

ted Russian troops to pour

into the small north Caucusus

republic in December, trig-

gering the six-month war

Mr. Imayev said Moscow

remains committed in a prnp-

(Continued on page 7)

Violence erupted shortly

after, and an estimated

30,000 people have since

The army-backed au-

thorities, particularly cau-

tious since a previous

round of talks with the FIS

coltapsed and Mr. Zeroual

hlamed FIS intransigence

for dashing raised hopes.

have given no direct con-

firmation that talks are

And diplomats and Alge-

rian politicians remain

sceptical that a break-

through will be announced

hy July 5, a symbolic day

for important political

annnuncements by the

But one diplomat said

the optimism was soundly

based: "The fact is the FIS

leaders have apparently

convinced themselves that

armed fight will not be de-

cisive, and this might have

been a major element in

the moderate FIS leaders

willing to find a a com-

promise with the author-

head of the state.

being held.

has left thousands

ft was Chechenya's dec-

tough to resolve.

Even if both sides agree on

tions are held.

saving.

which

dead.

#### Indonesia soothsayer to be tried for blasphemy

JAKARTA (R) - An Indonesian soothsaver will be rned next week for allegedly insulting Prophet Moham-mad, one of his lawyers said Sunday. Permadi will be tried on July 6 in Sleman near Yneyakarta for insulting Islam and Prophet Mohammad." Ramdlon Naning told Reuters from Yngyakarta, 450 kilometres east of Jakarta. Mr. Permadi, who heads the Association of Indonesian Psychics, was accused of oefaming the Prophet during a seminar last year in Yogyakarta in which he allegedly called Prophet Mohammad a dictator. Naning said his client was being detained at the Wirogunan Prison in Yogyakarta, If convicted, Mr. Permadi faces a maximum jail term of five years. The ruling Golkar Parly has said it will sue the soothsaver over remarks he allegedly made in an interview with a radio station last year in which he compared Golkar with the banned Communist Party known as

#### Diana celebrates 34th brithday

LONDON (AFP) - Diana. the Princess of Wales, celebrased her 34th birthday by playing tennis and eating cucumber sandwiches with her two sons at their school in Ludgrove, in western London. The princess, who seemed very relaxed, spent six huurs with Prince William. 13, and Prince Harry. II). The two boys finish their school year Wednesday. Prince William will not be teturning to Ludgrove but has been accepted at the famed Eion School.

#### Girl dies in fall from roller coaster

Dudayev, had failed to reply KANSAS CITY. Missouri (AFP) - A teenage girl was killed in a fall from a roller initiative, fnterfax said Suncoaster that took its passengers for a whitlwind ride current political leaders in reaching speeds of up to 85 kilometres (53 miles) per hour. A friend who was riding with Ryan Bielby, 14, would resign before new elecsaid the lap bar and the seat belt came undone when the "Dudayev has not sent any train creasted the top of a hill, a police officet said. But accept this zero option," the officials from the Worlds Of news agency quoted a Rus-Fun amusement park said all restraints were in place at the beginning and the end of the ride and that the lap bar could have only been unlocked future elections, which Moswith a tool.

#### Convicts escape during soccer match at prison

SANTIAGO (AFP) - Fifteen convicts managed to escape from the Rengo Prison south of here Saturday during a soccer match that captured the full attention of guards and fellow inmates. Police said the convicts went undetected when they climbed over a wall during the match but were soon spotted by officers in the streets of Rengo who shot Iwo escapees and seized two others.

#### Japanese women linked to murder freed on bail

MANILA (AFP) - A

Japanese woman accused of having her husband murdered so she could collect £1 million in life insurance has been released from a prison on bail, the Philippine News Agency (PNA) said Saturday. Marie Uemura, 31, was freed after a municipal trial court judge in Talisay said he was convinced Cemura would not jump bail since the immigration authorities had narred her from leaving the country, the PNA report said. The woman's passport was confiscated by immigration authorities. L'emura was arrested by police Tuesday on charges of ordering the murder of her husband Moriyuki Uemura, after the 52-year-old businessman from Fukuoka, Japan, was shot dead on June 17. Police allege he was murdered so his widow could collect on his 100 million yen (\$1.18 million) insurance policy.

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7.5(R) - Qaiar's Minister Sheikh 28 Jassim Ben Jaliani attired in on Monday 10 on last week's sower in the emiaid. The minissomers he was carstage to Presiden: used from the new Qaiar. Sheikh Thalifa Al The with the changes ad bilateral coop-

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